

KARINA

# Sleeping Beauty

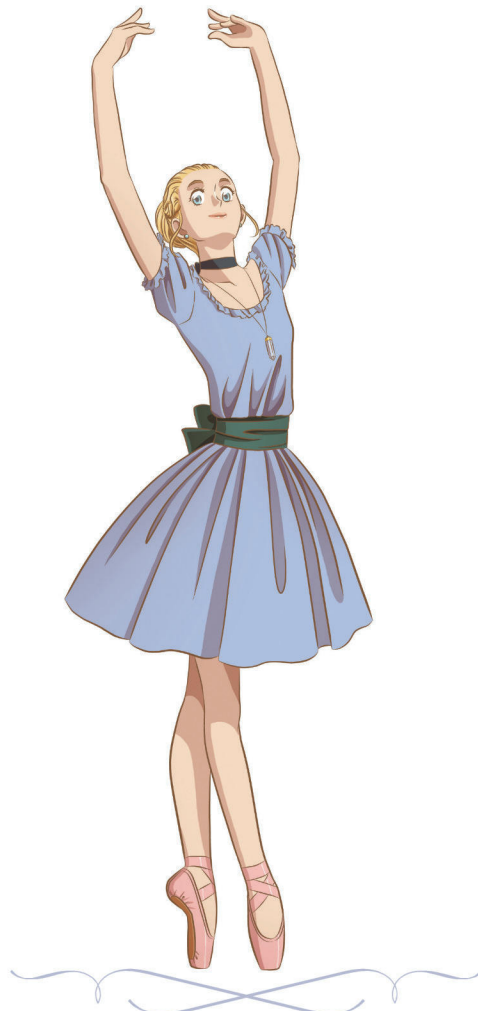
ACT II



Europe  
COMICS

KARINA

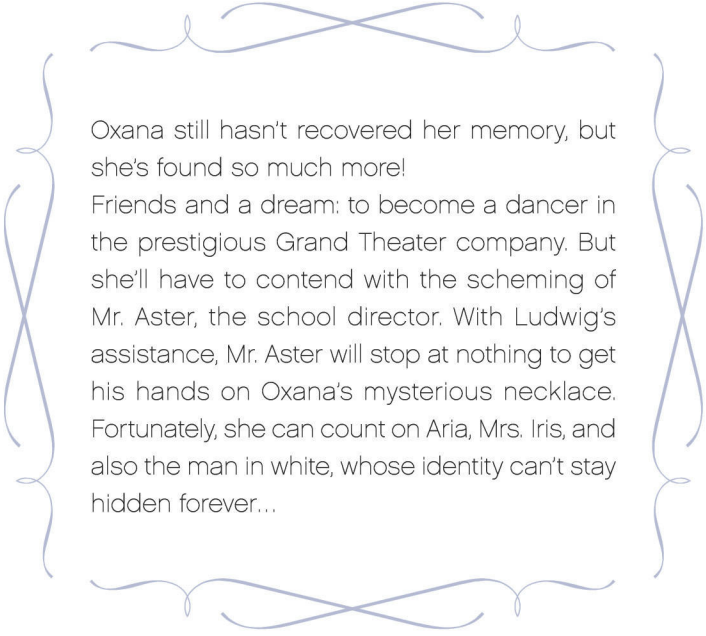
# Sleeping Beauty



ACT II

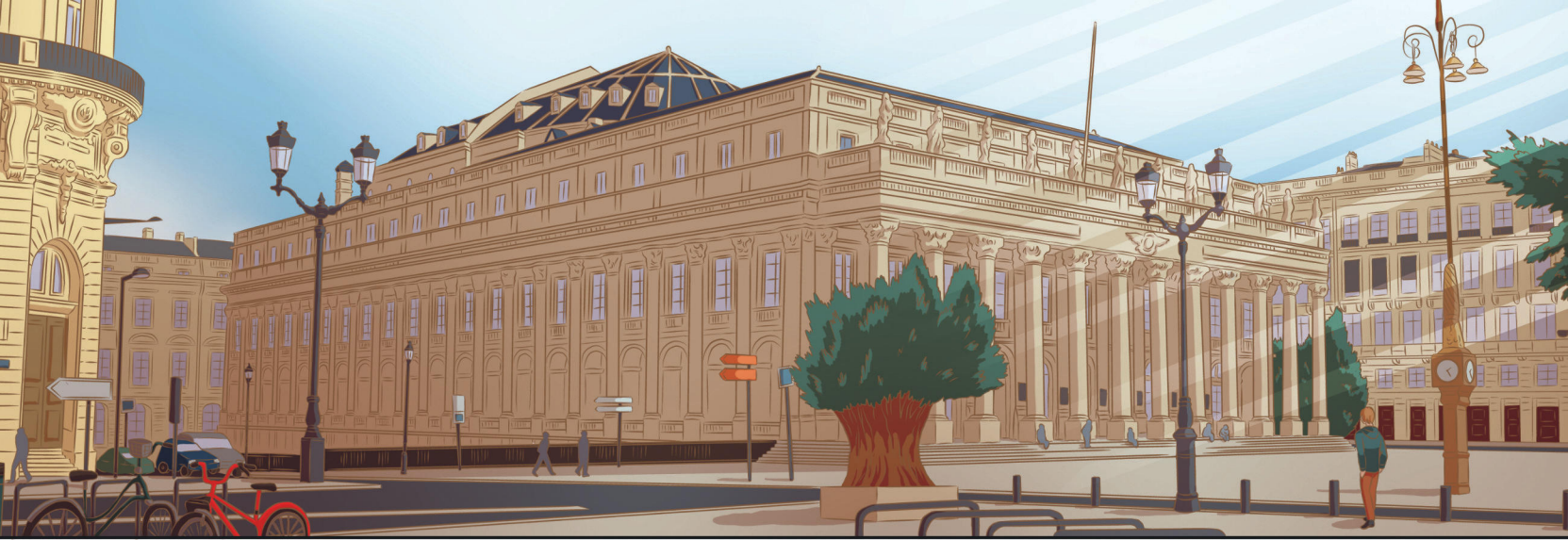




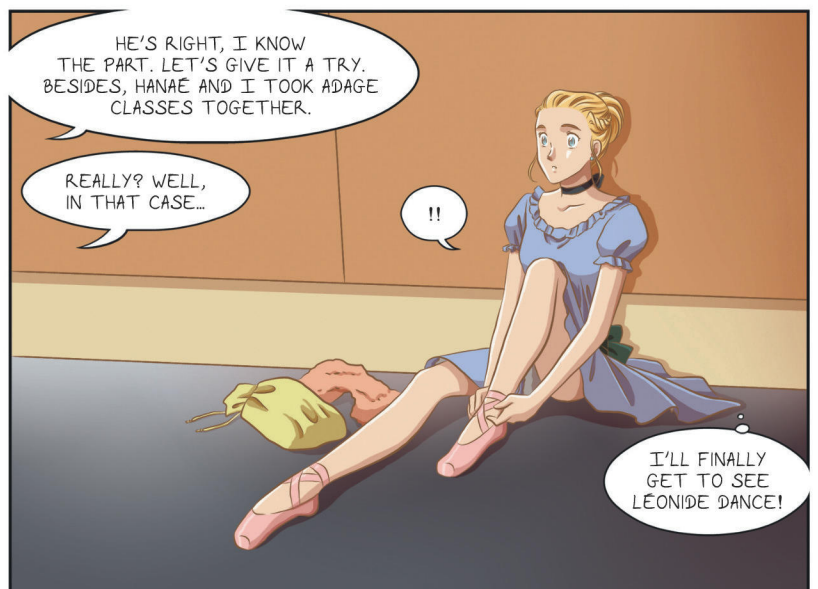
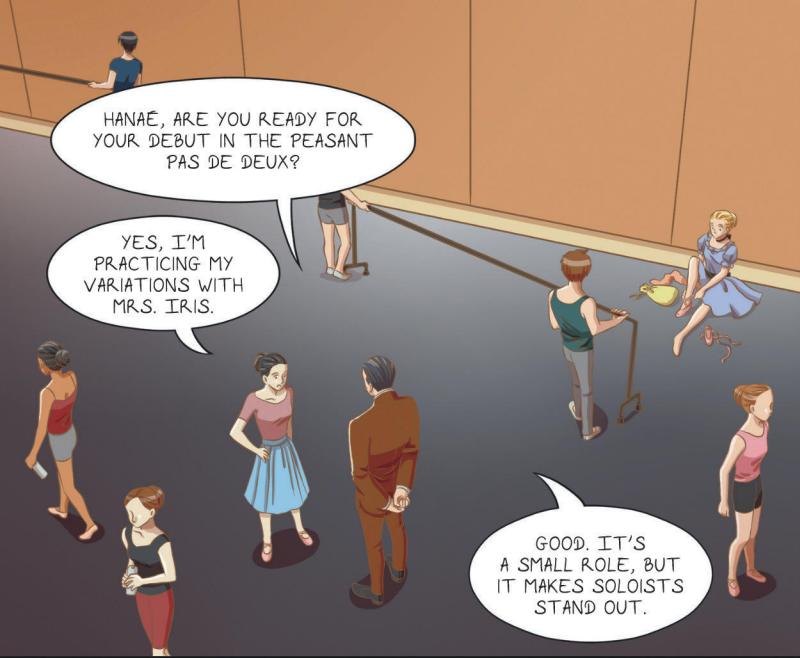


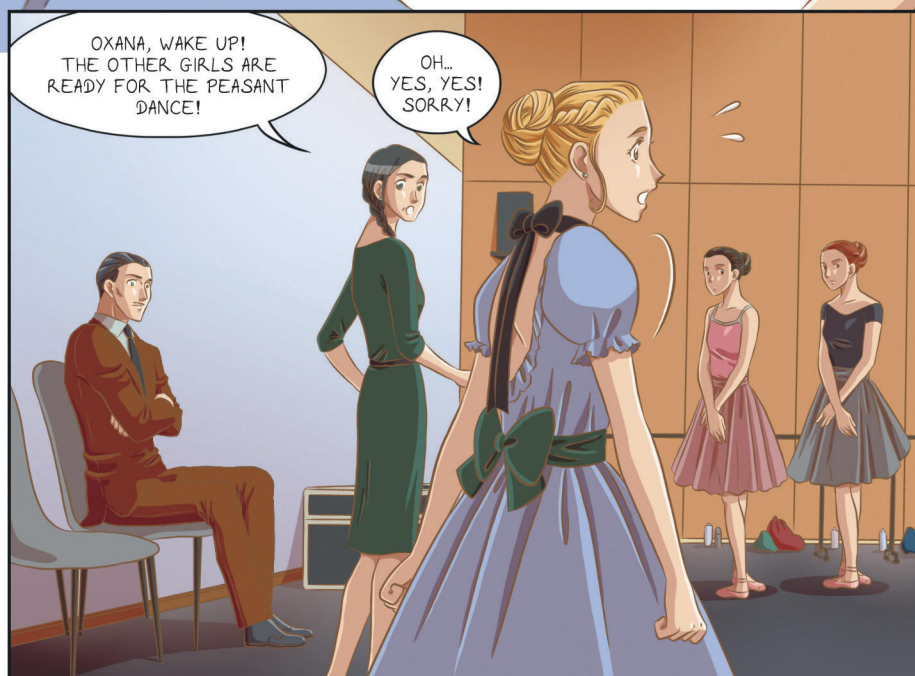
Oxana still hasn't recovered her memory, but she's found so much more!

Friends and a dream: to become a dancer in the prestigious Grand Theater company. But she'll have to contend with the scheming of Mr. Aster, the school director. With Ludwig's assistance, Mr. Aster will stop at nothing to get his hands on Oxana's mysterious necklace. Fortunately, she can count on Aria, Mrs. Iris, and also the man in white, whose identity can't stay hidden forever...

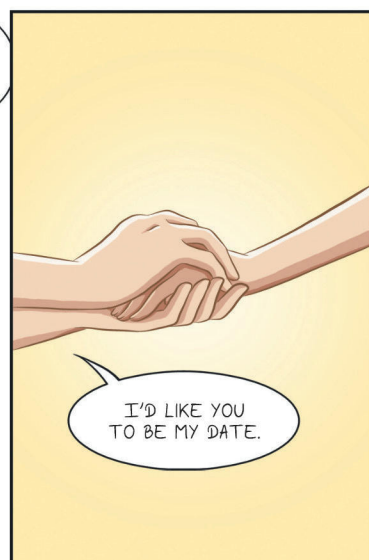
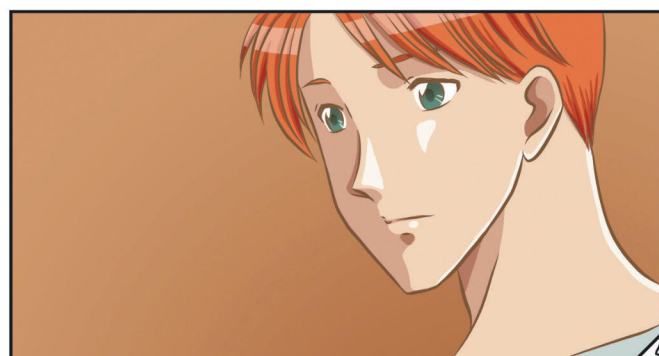
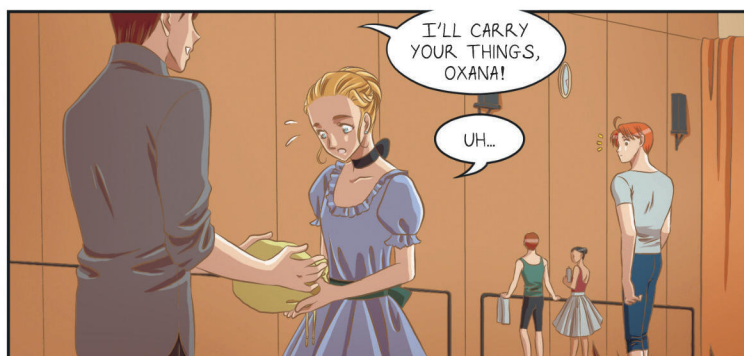
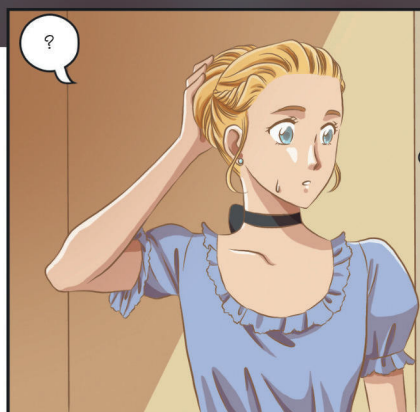
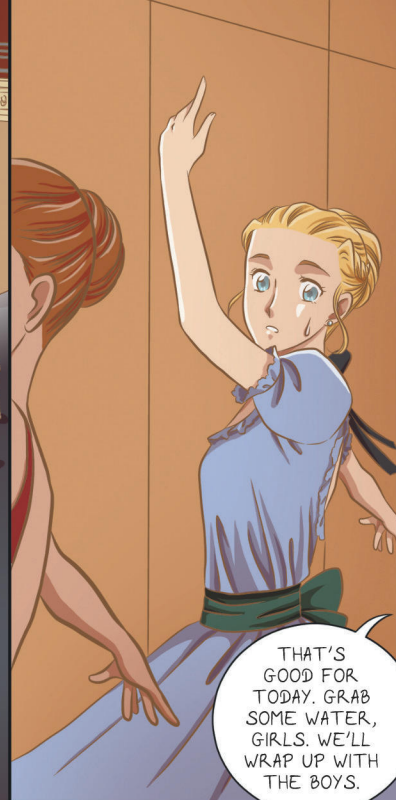
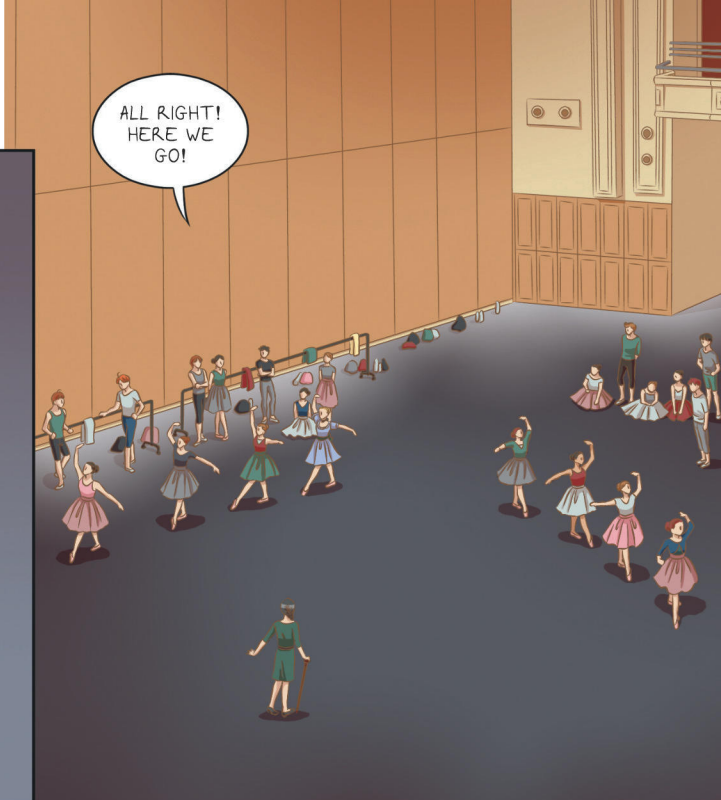
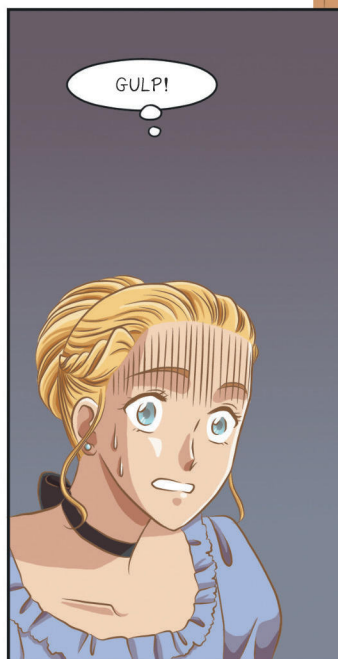




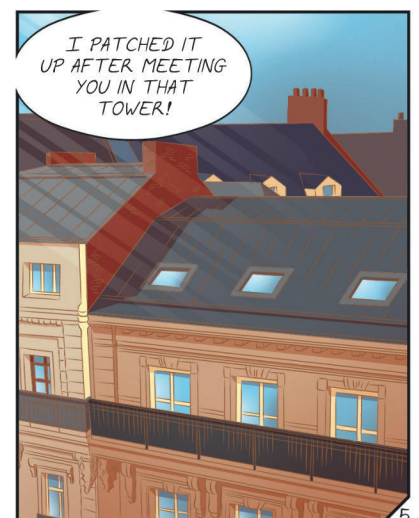
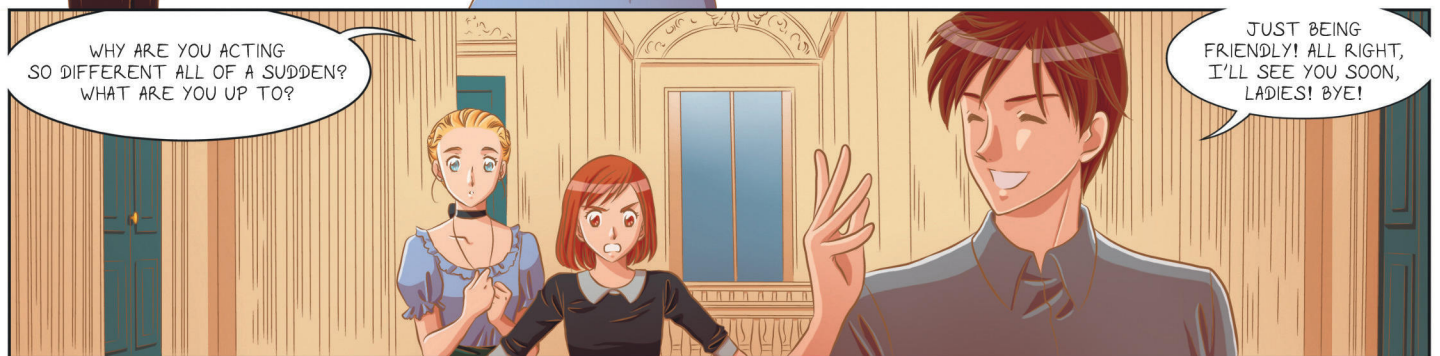
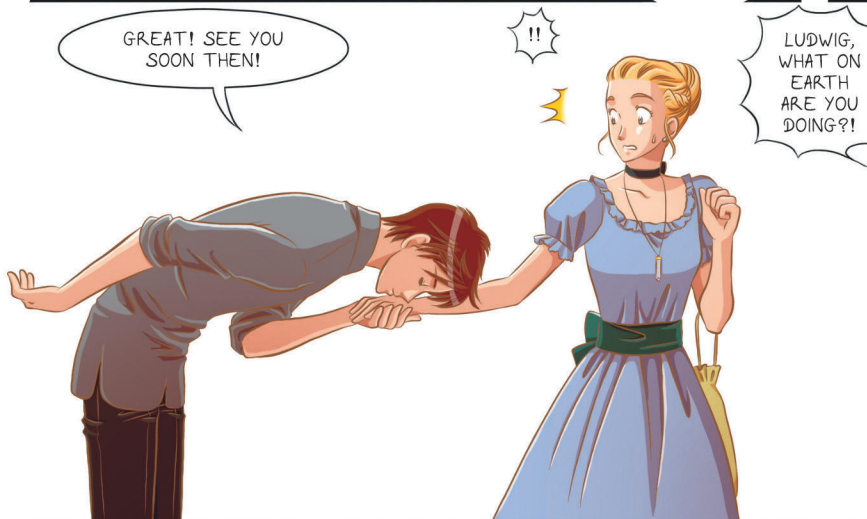
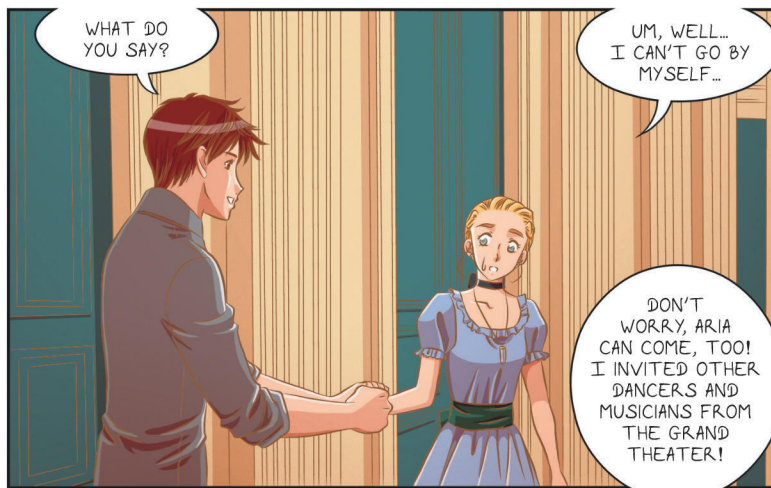




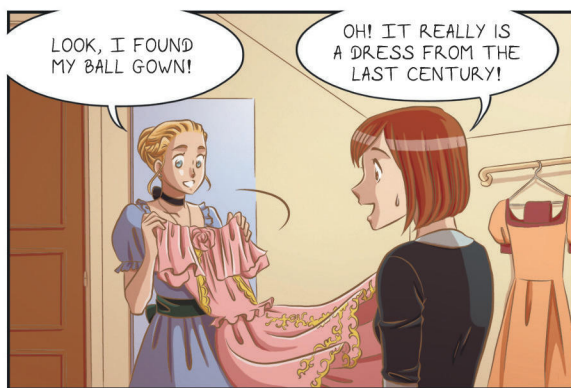
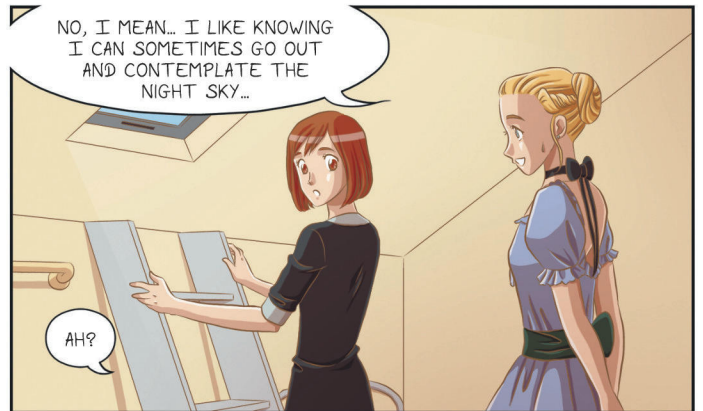
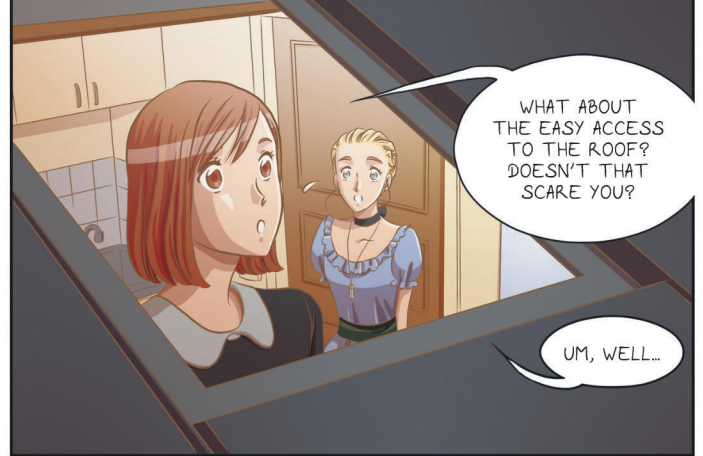




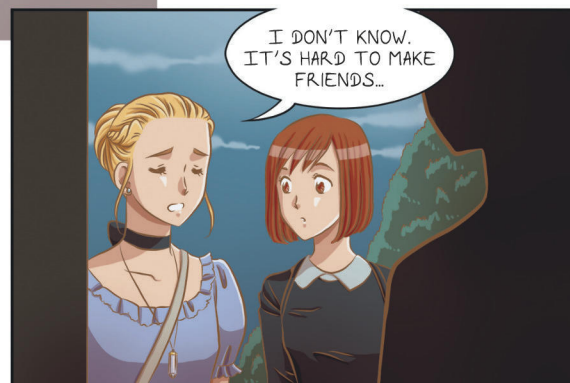
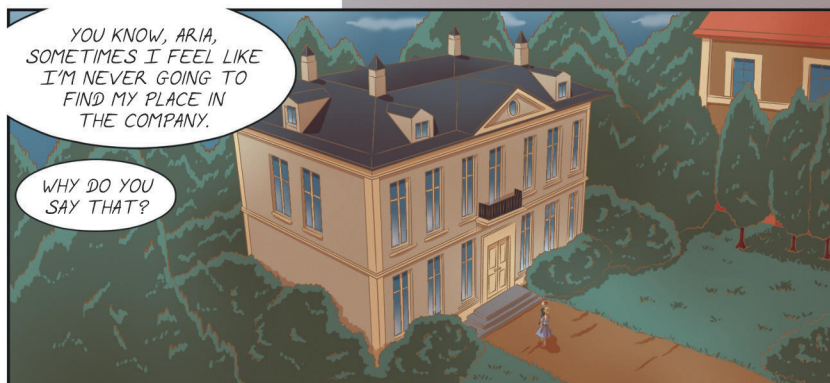
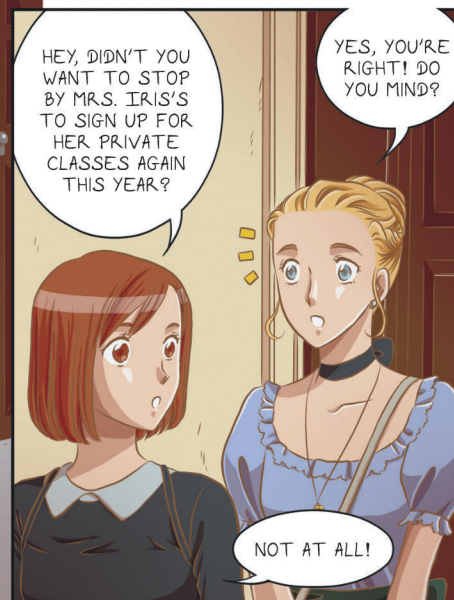




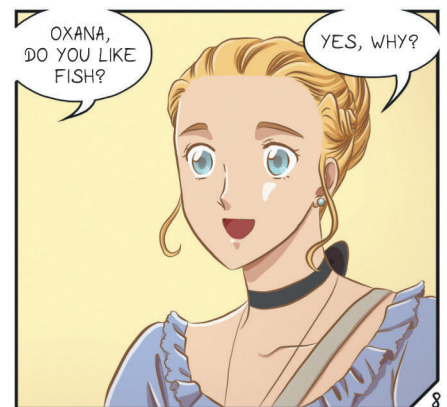
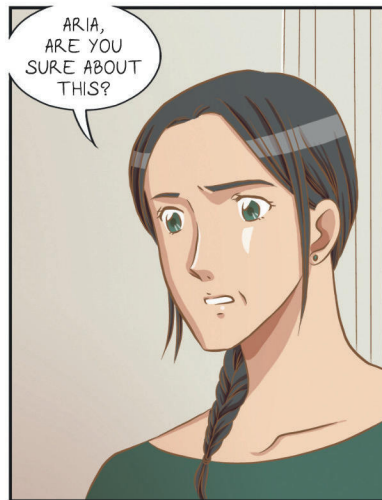
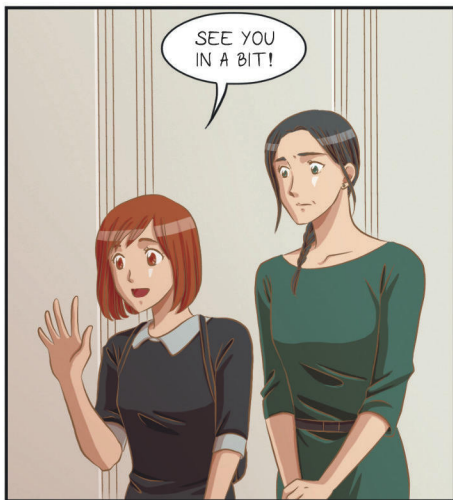
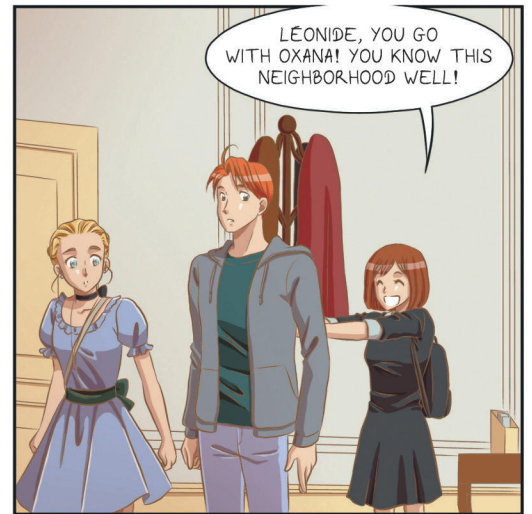
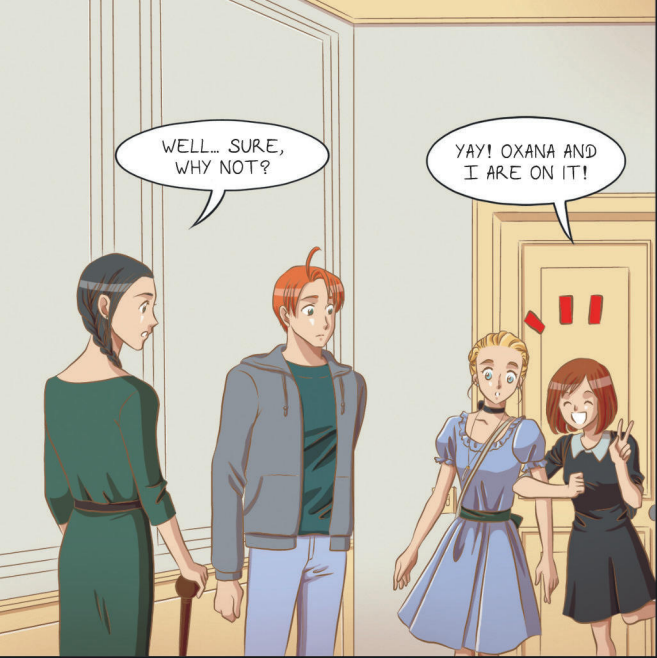




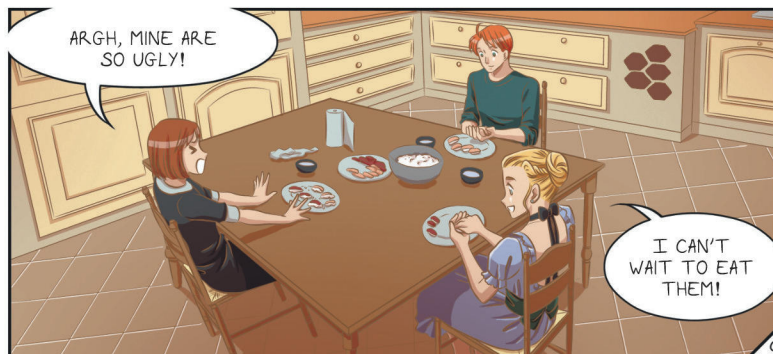
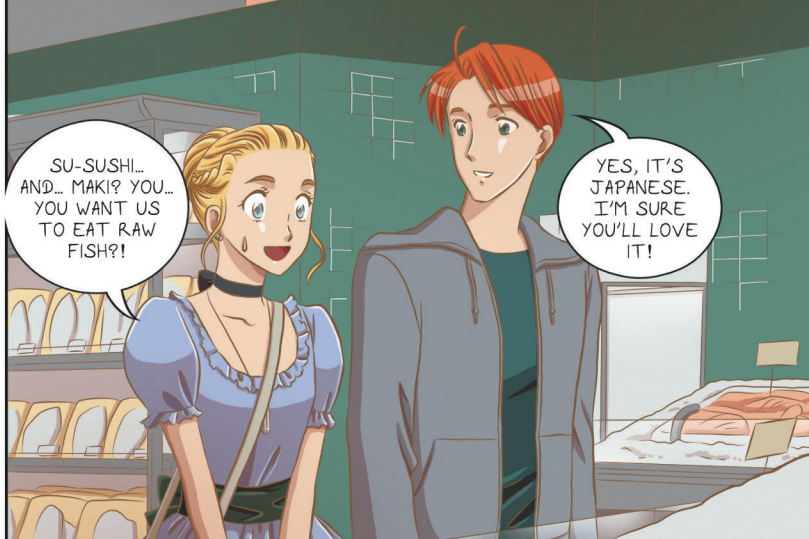




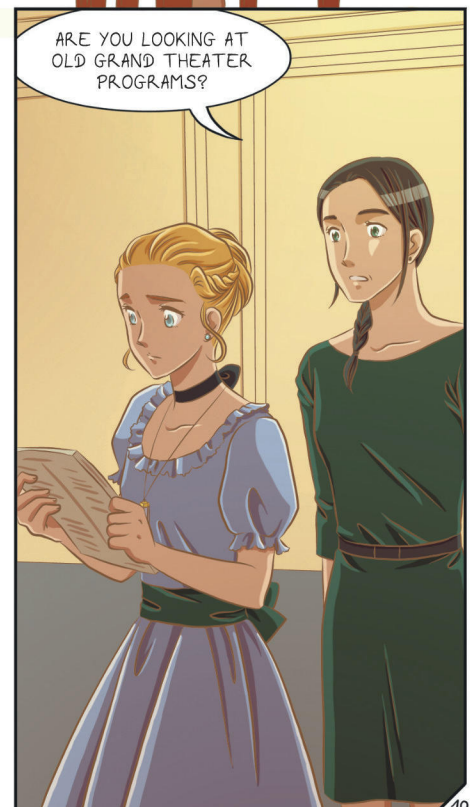
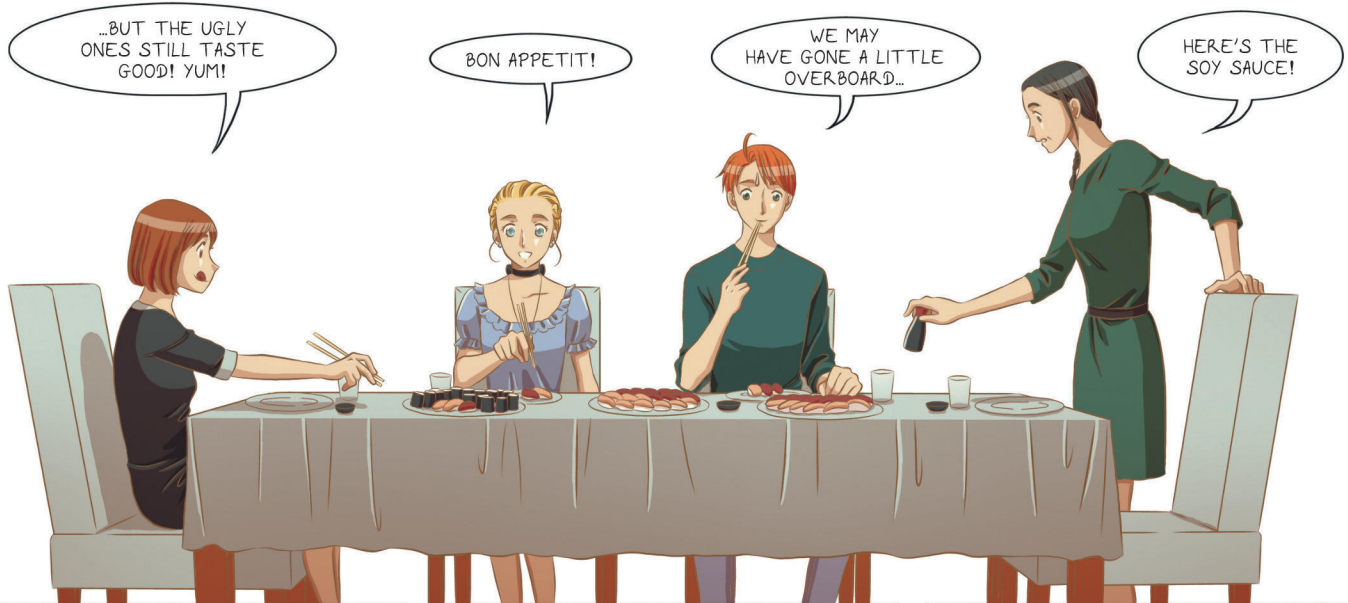
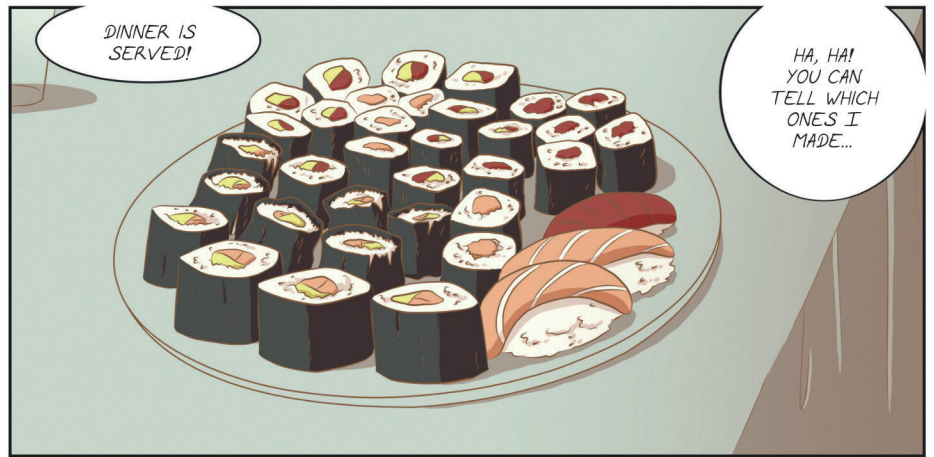
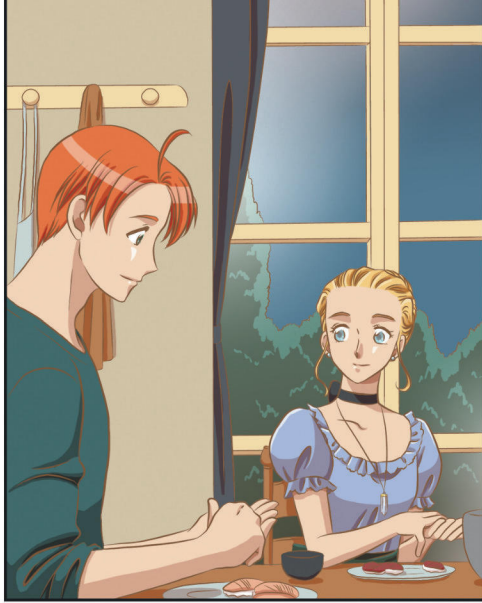




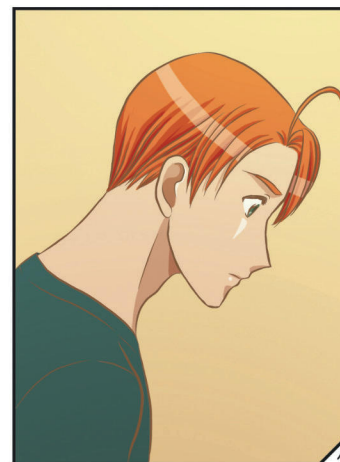
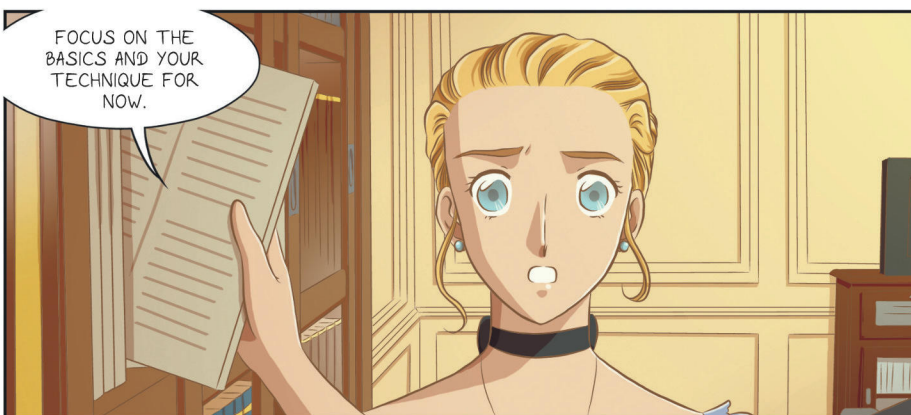




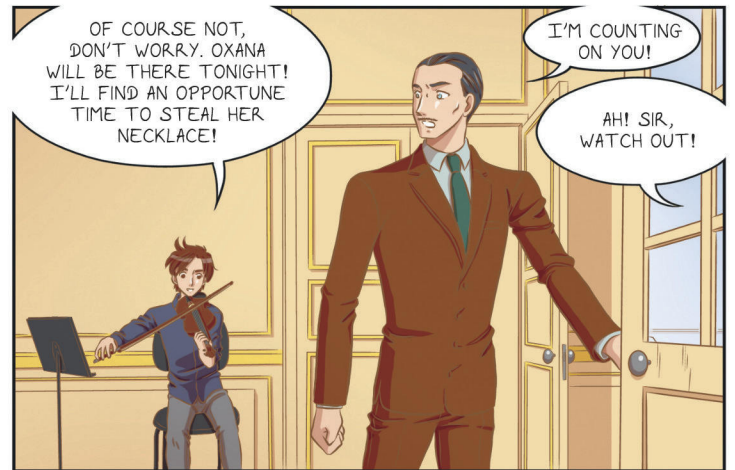
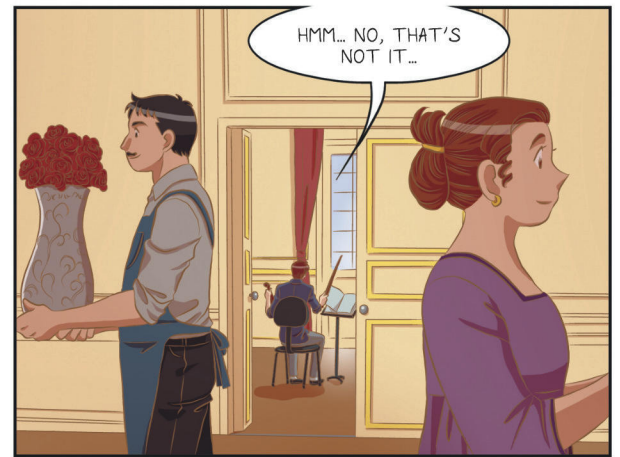
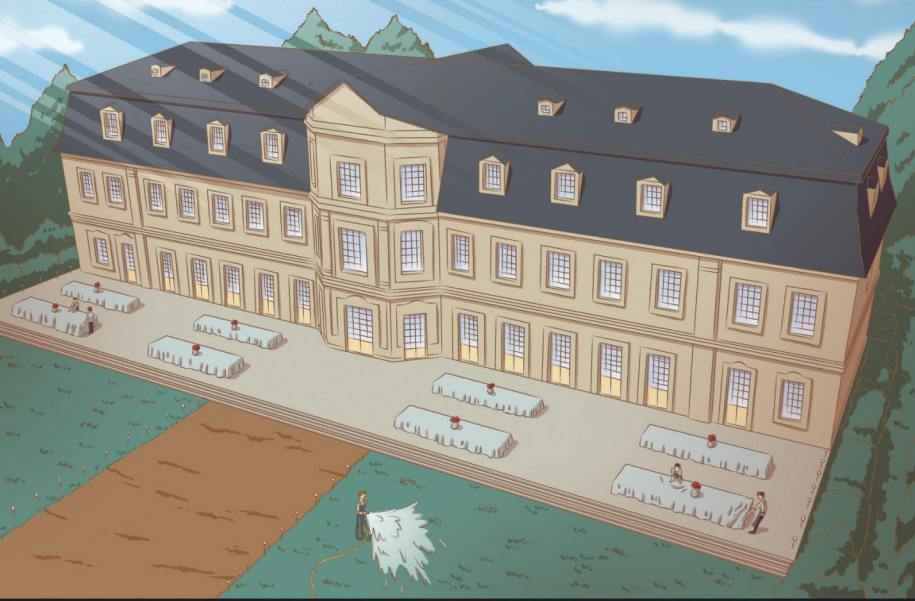




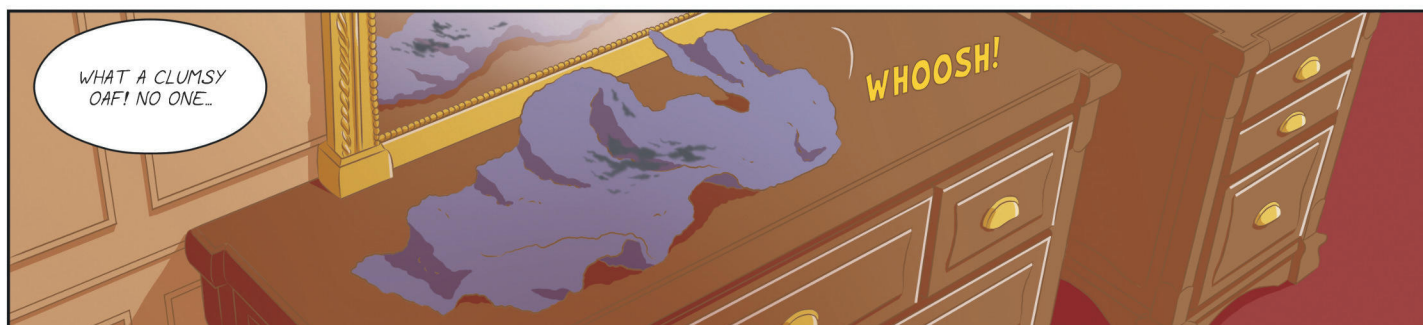














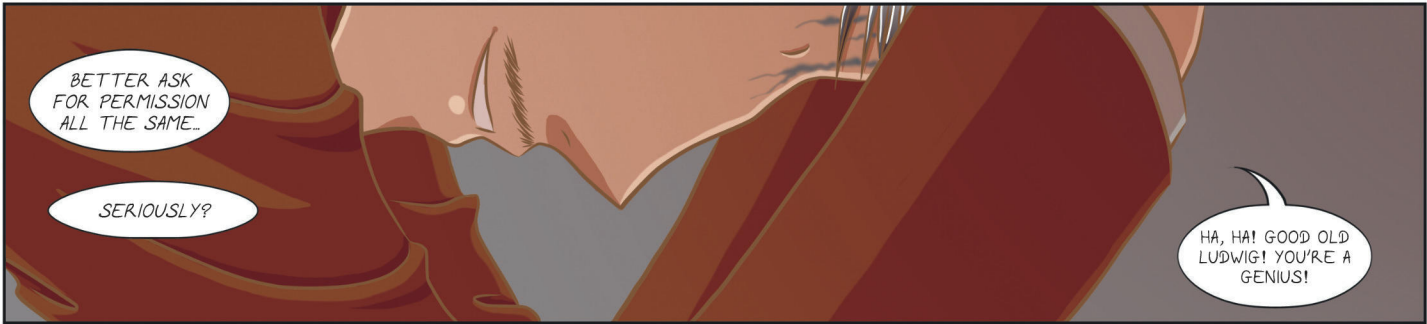


LUDWIG,  
WHAT ARE YOU  
PLAYING?

AH, FATHER! IT'S AN  
EXCERPT FROM TCHAIKOVSKY'S  
SLEEPING BEAUTY!

I KNOW THAT, BUT YOU  
KNOW FULL WELL THAT YOUR  
GRANDFATHER DOESN'T WANT  
TO HEAR IT...

AND WHY NOT? IT'S BEEN  
AGES SINCE ANYONE'S PLAYED IT  
AROUND HERE!



BETTER ASK  
FOR PERMISSION  
ALL THE SAME...

SERIOUSLY?

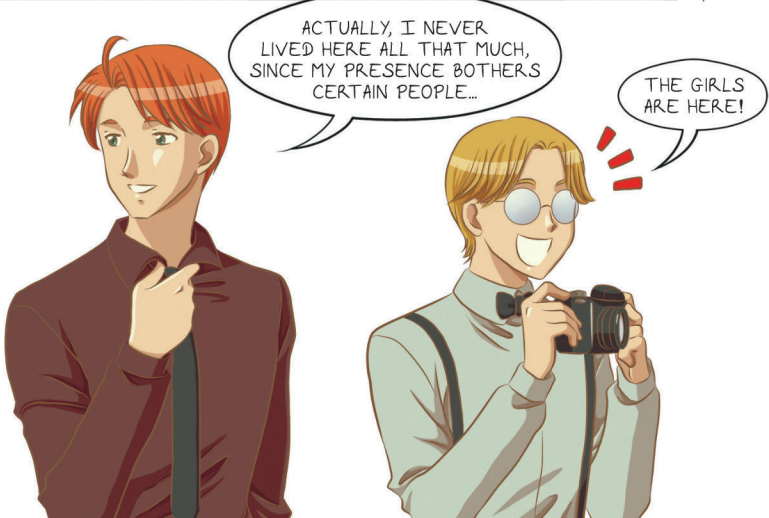
HA, HA! GOOD OLD  
LUDWIG! YOU'RE A  
GENIUS!



WHOA! LEONIDE,  
YOU AND LUDWIG LIVE  
IN A PALACE?!



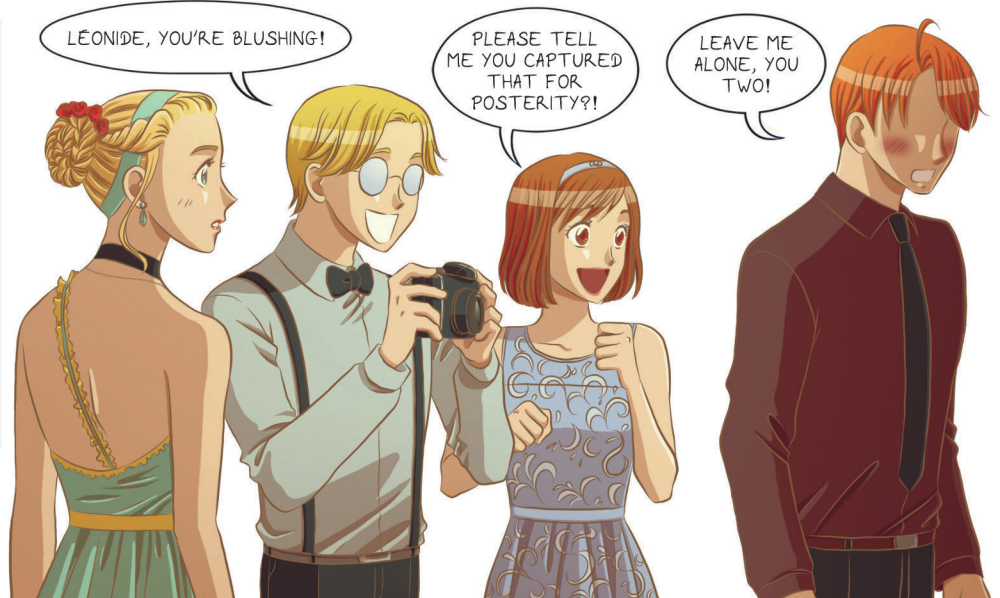
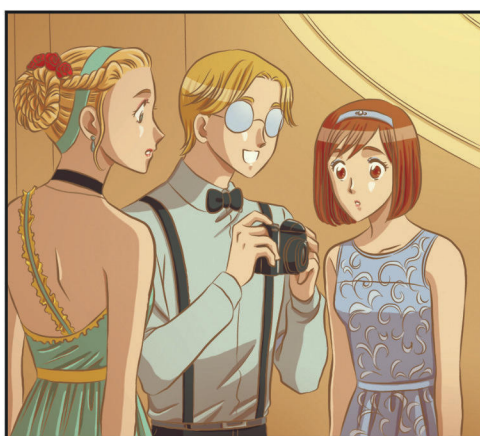
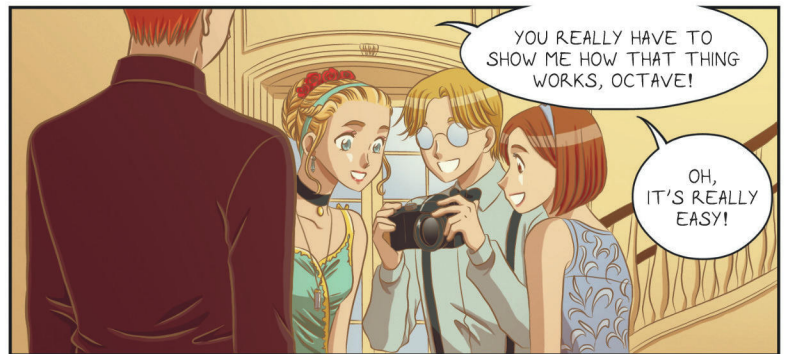
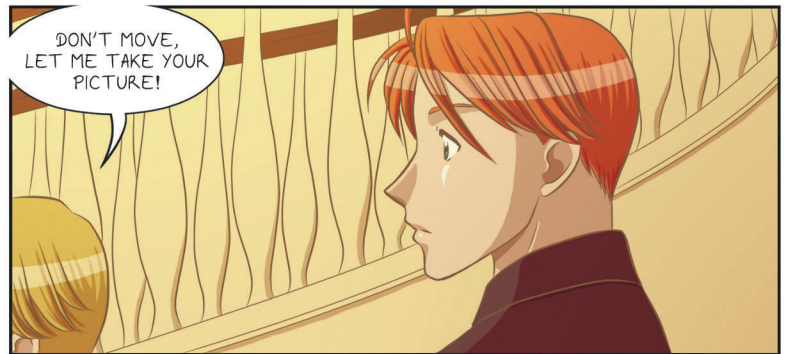
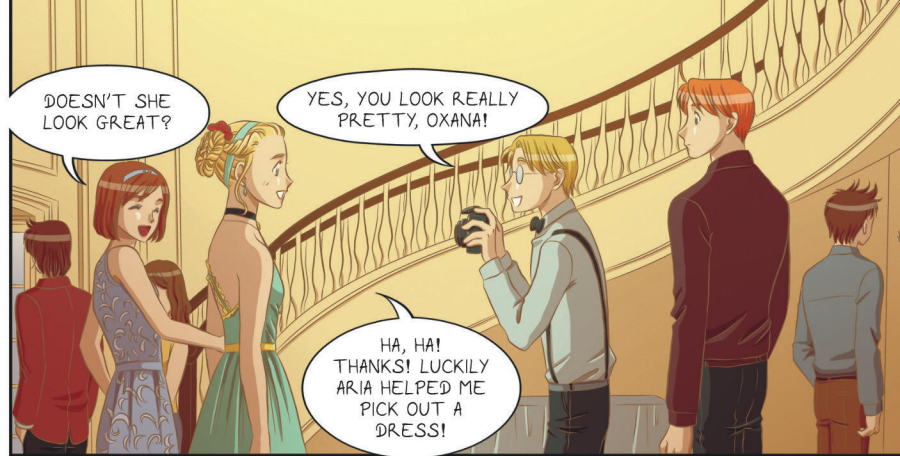
THIS'LL MAKE  
FOR SOME STUNNING  
SHOTS!



ACTUALLY, I NEVER  
LIVED HERE ALL THAT MUCH,  
SINCE MY PRESENCE BOTHERS  
CERTAIN PEOPLE...

THE GIRLS  
ARE HERE!









OH, DON'T GET MAD, LÉONIDE!

HA, HA! IT'S IN THE CAN!

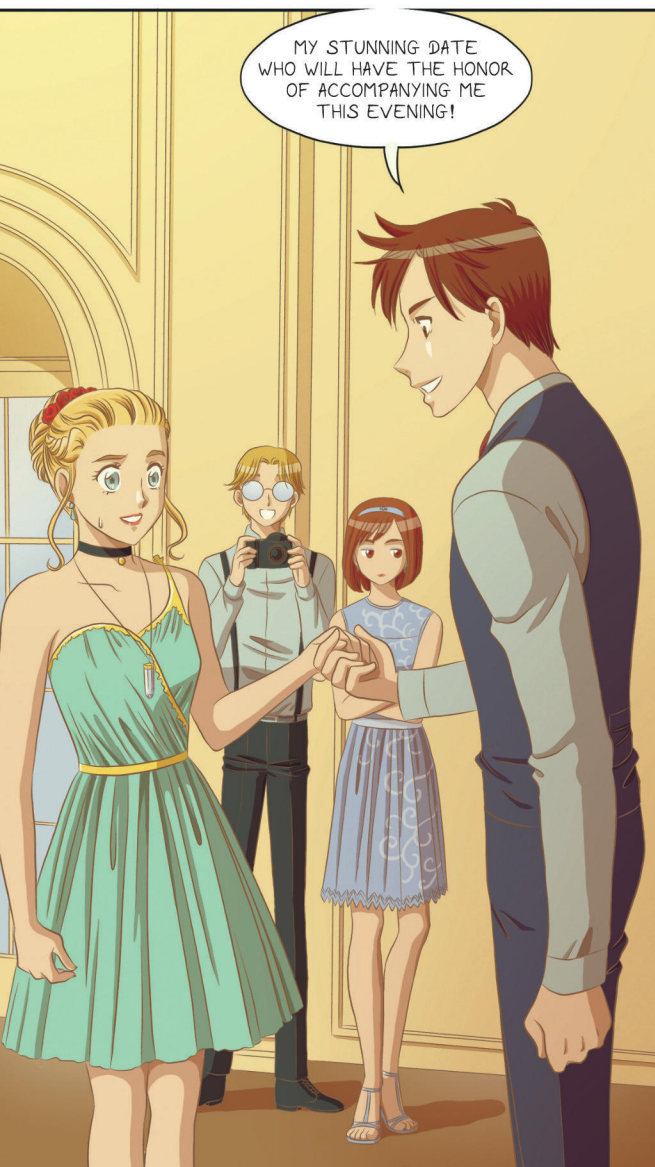


LEAVING SO SOON? BUT THE PARTY'S JUST GETTING STARTED!

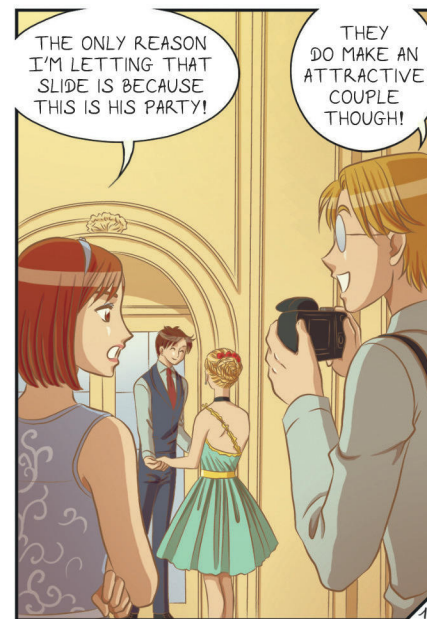
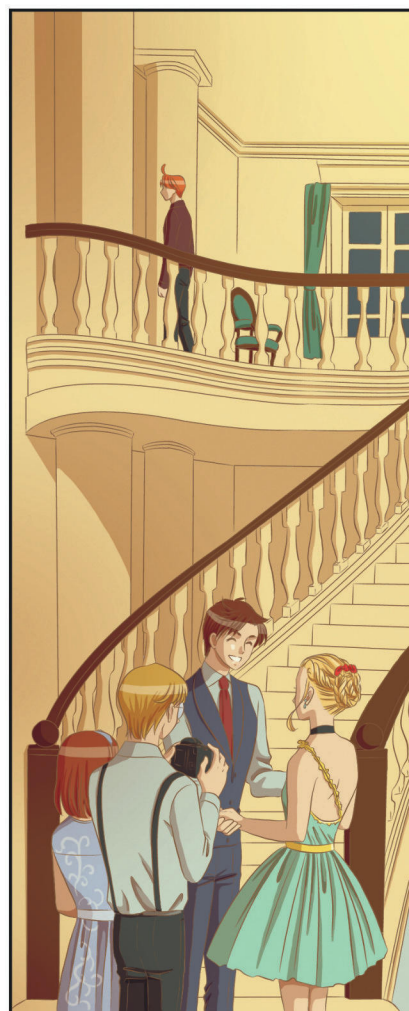
WHATEVER. I'VE HAD ENOUGH.



AHA, WHO DO WE HAVE HERE?!



MY STUNNING DATE WHO WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF ACCOMPANYING ME THIS EVENING!



THE ONLY REASON I'M LETTING THAT SLIDE IS BECAUSE THIS IS HIS PARTY!

THEY DO MAKE AN ATTRACTIVE COUPLE THOUGH!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!



**CLAP!**



THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING  
TO CELEBRATE MY GRANDSON, LUDWIG  
ASTER'S, BIRTHDAY.

LUDWIG EMBODIES  
EVERYTHING THAT THE GRAND  
THEATER HAS ALWAYS DEMANDED  
OF ITS ARTISTS: RIGOR AND  
PERSEVERANCE.

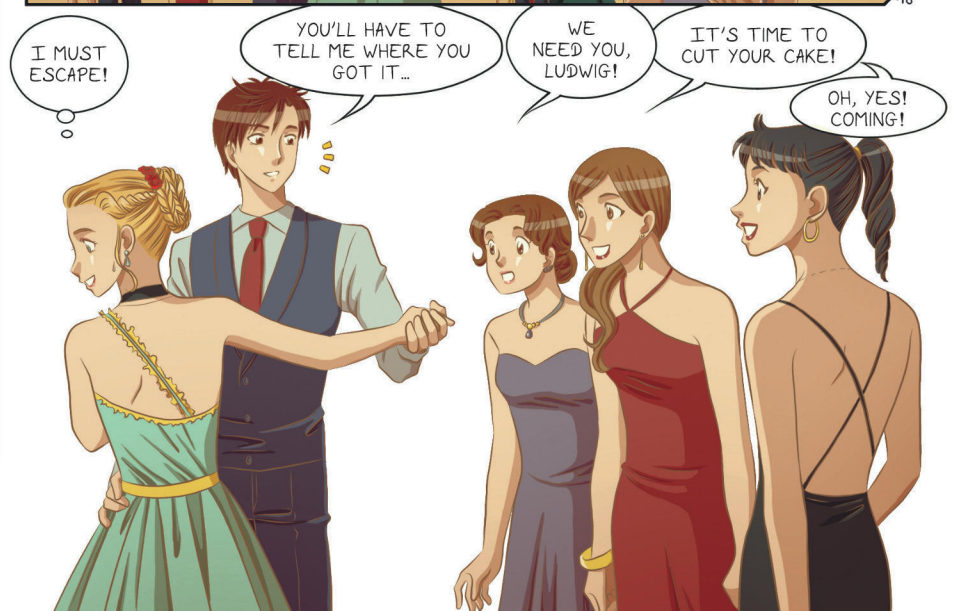
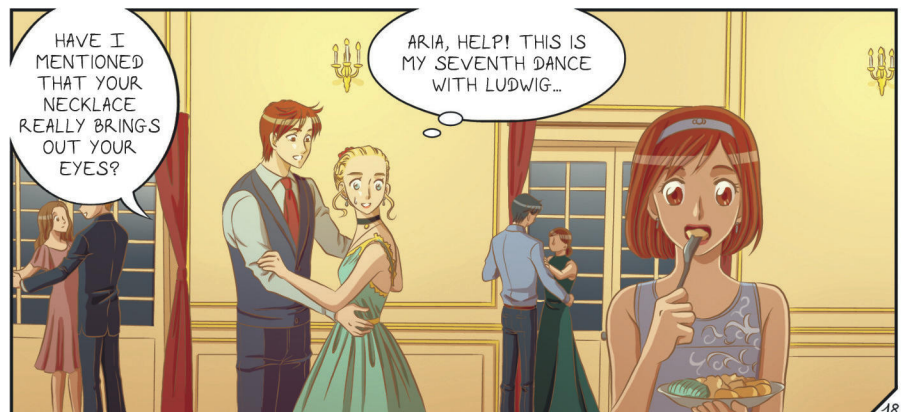
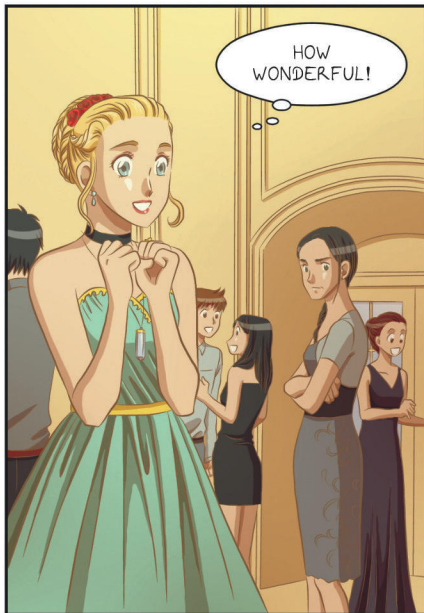
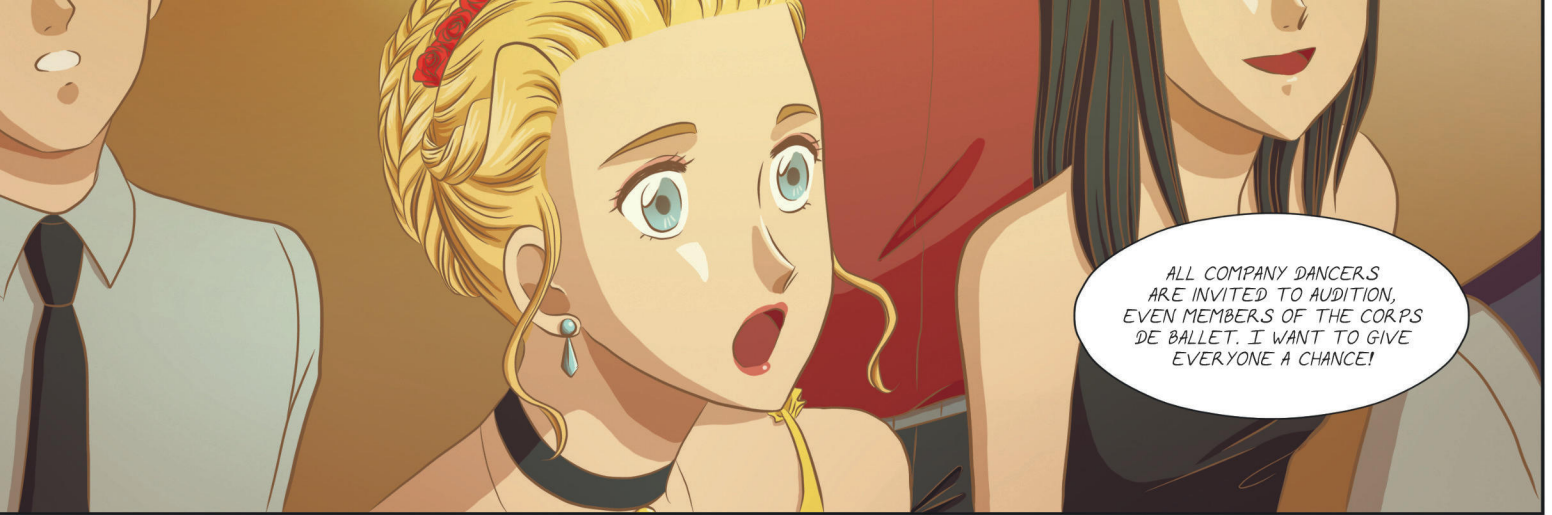
FOR HIS IMMENSE TALENT AND  
LOYALTY, AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT  
HE'S ONLY RECENTLY JOINED THE COMPANY,  
IT IS MY PLEASURE TO NAME HIM THE  
ORCHESTRA'S FIRST VIOLINIST.

WOW, CONGRATS!

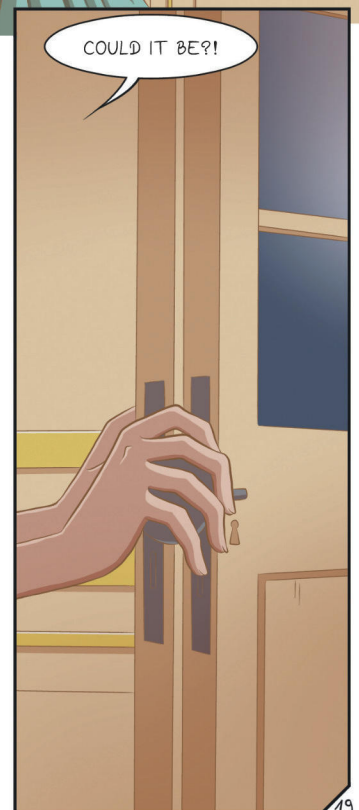
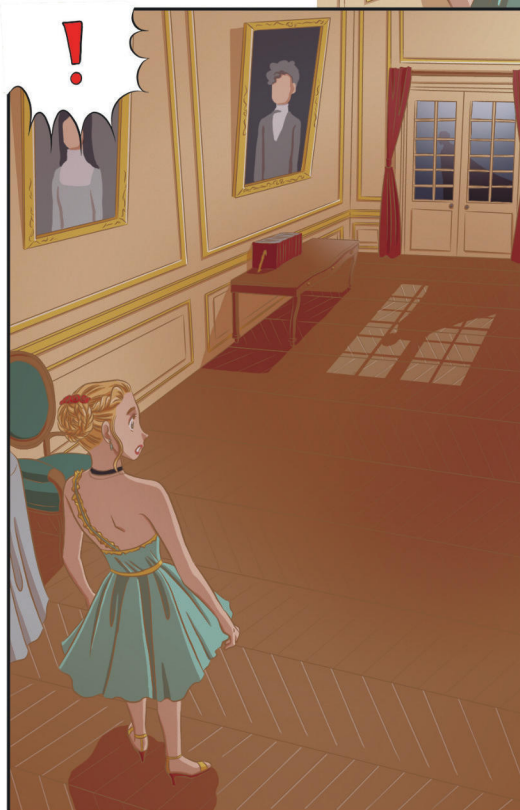
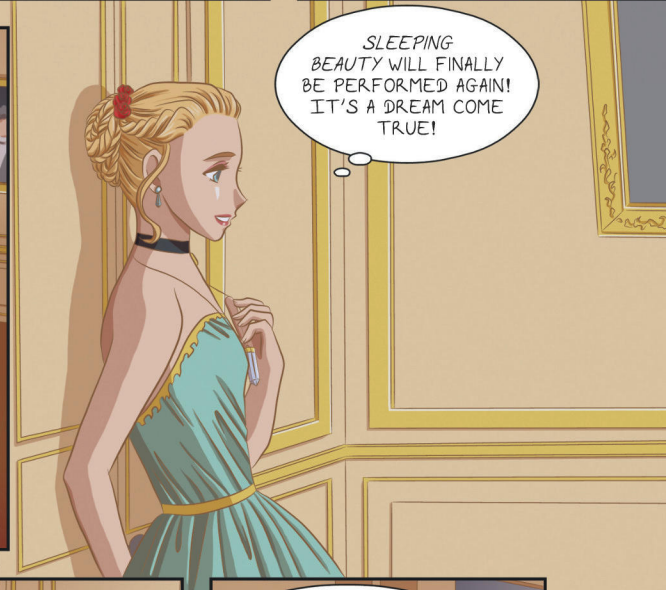
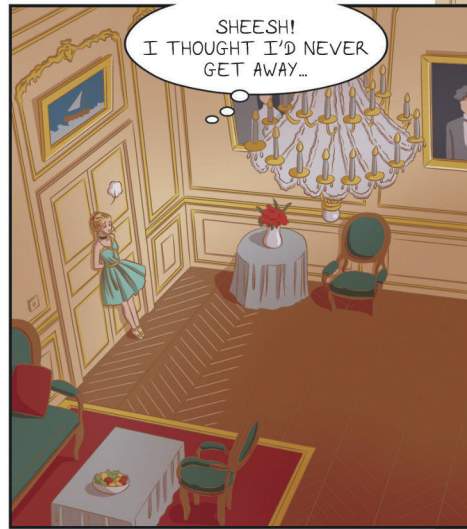
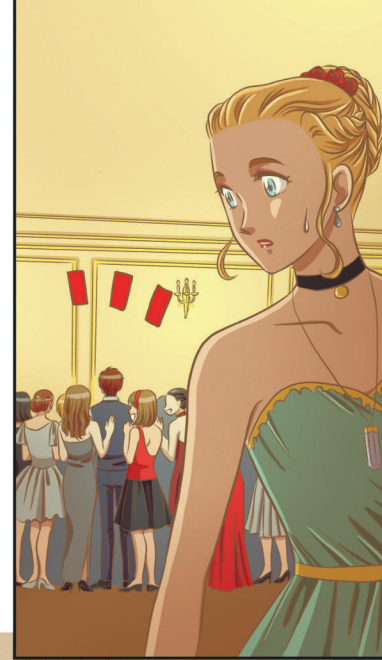
BRAVO,  
LUDWIG!

I ALSO HAVE ANOTHER  
BIG ANNOUNCEMENT! I'VE  
DECIDED TO REINTRODUCE  
THE *SLEEPING BEAUTY* BALLET  
INTO OUR REPERTOIRE  
FOR NEXT SEASON!













IT REALLY IS YOU!  
I WAS JUST THINKING  
ABOUT YOU!



OXANA...  
I HEARD THE NEWS... I CAN'T  
WAIT TO SEE  
YOU ON  
STAGE!



I WANTED  
TO THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR HELP  
LAST TIME!

WITHOUT  
YOU, I'D NEVER  
HAVE FOUND THE  
COURAGE TO  
AUDITION!



I'M SORRY, WERE YOU  
IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING?  
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WANT  
TO BE LEFT ALONE.

PLEASE, ACT  
AS IF I'D NEVER  
SEEN YOU!



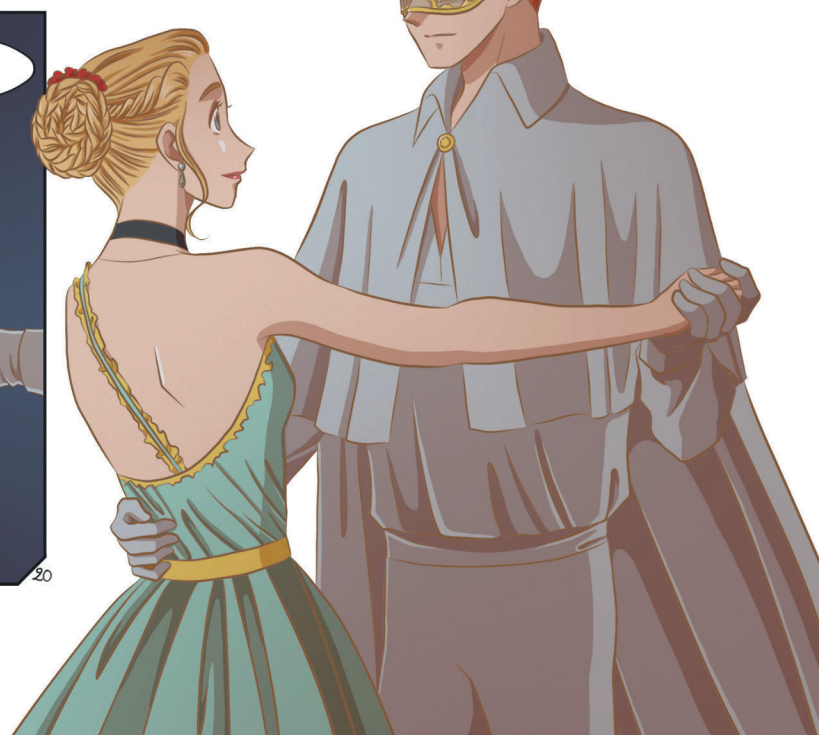
NOW I  
UNDERSTAND WHY  
LEONIDE DOESN'T  
CARE FOR THESE  
PARTIES...

THEY'RE RATHER  
TIRESOME...

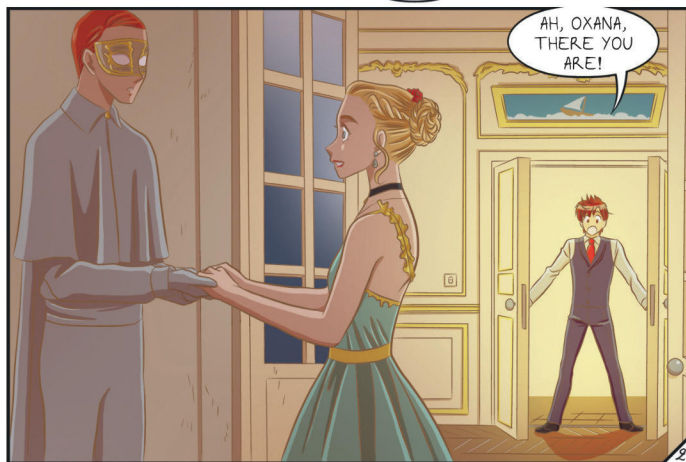
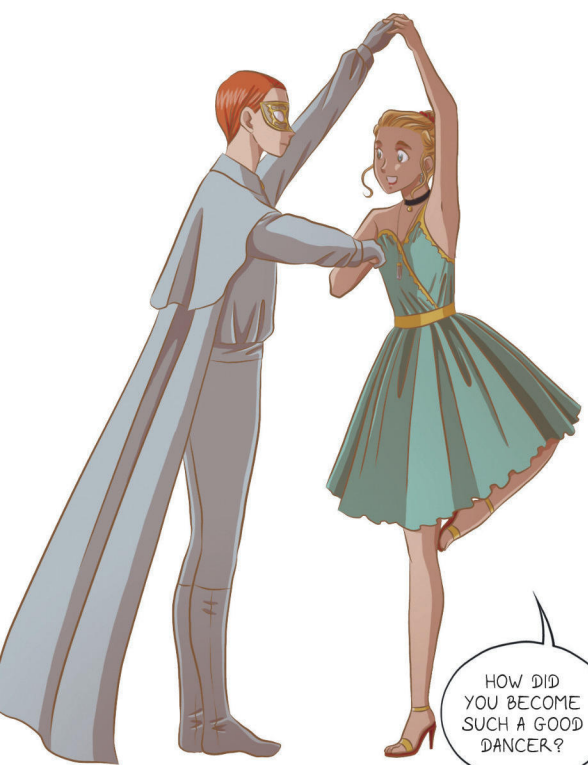
OXANA, I WONDER  
IF YOU...



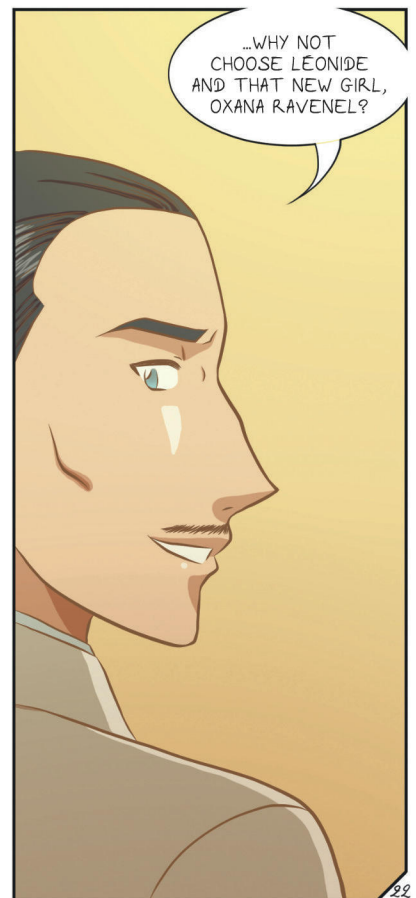
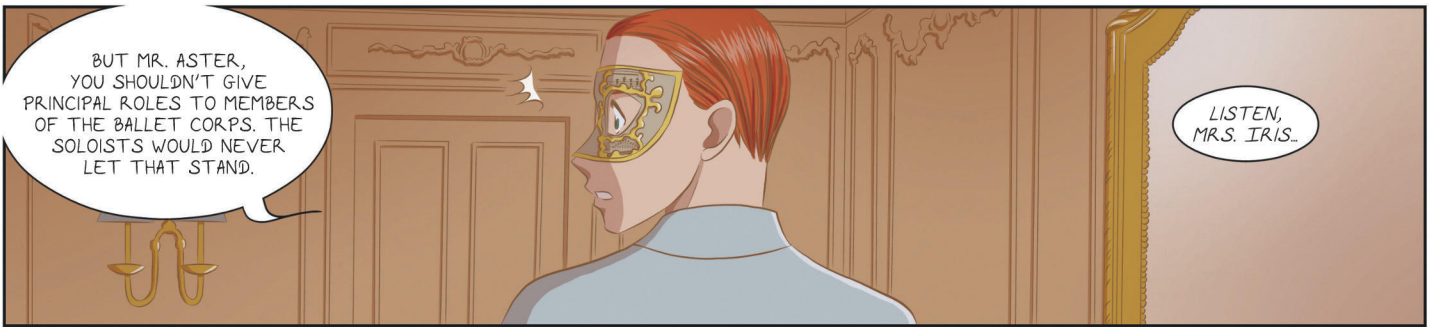
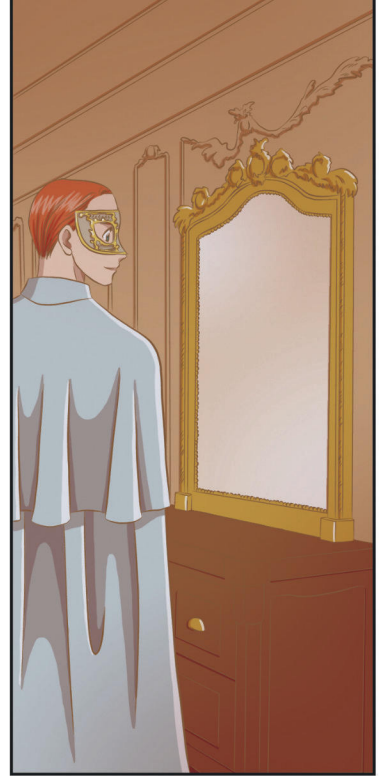
...WOULD DANCE  
WITH ME?



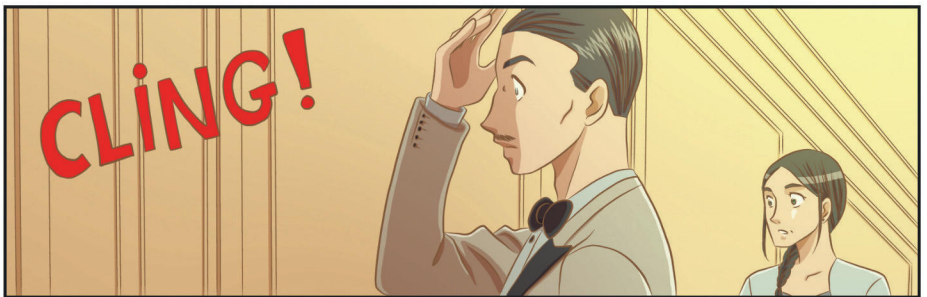
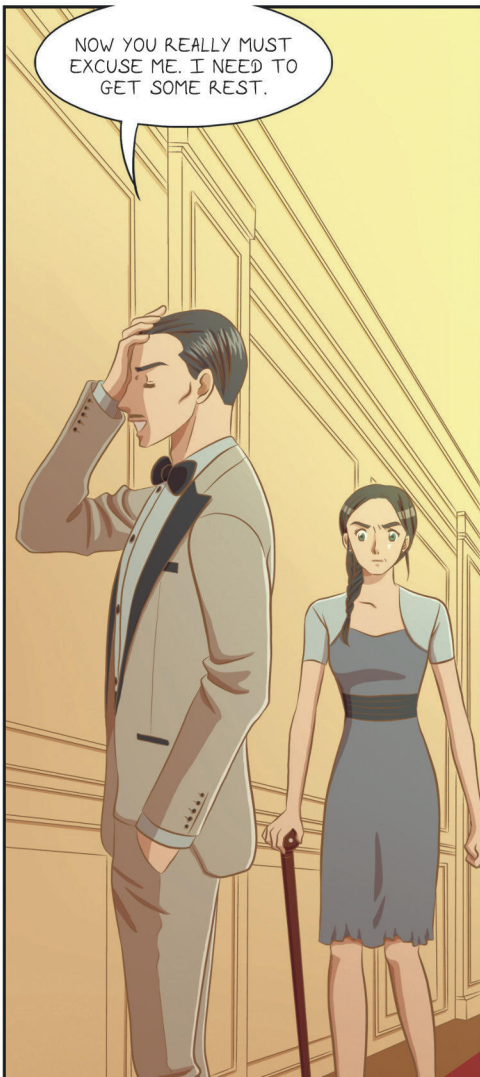
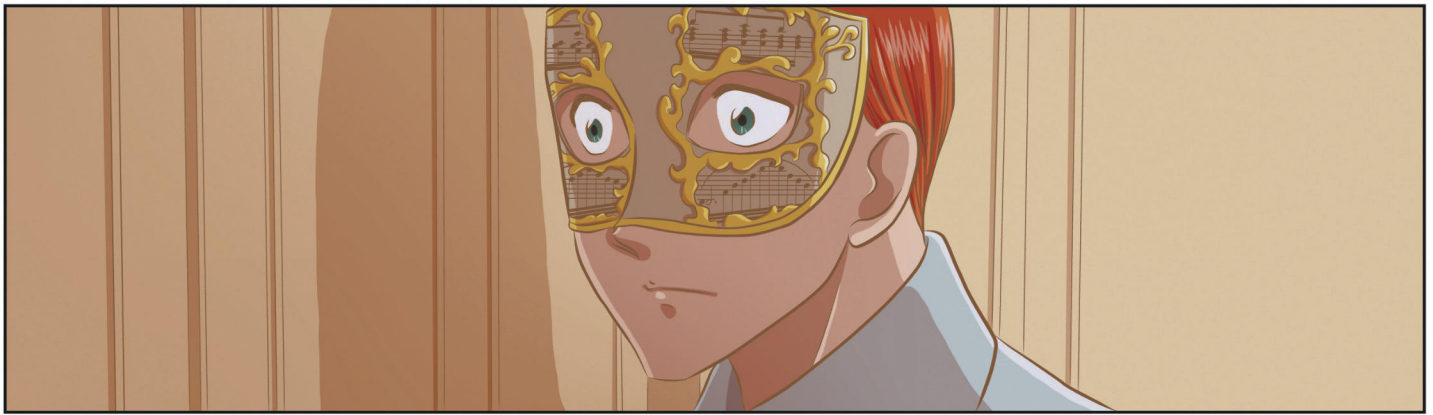
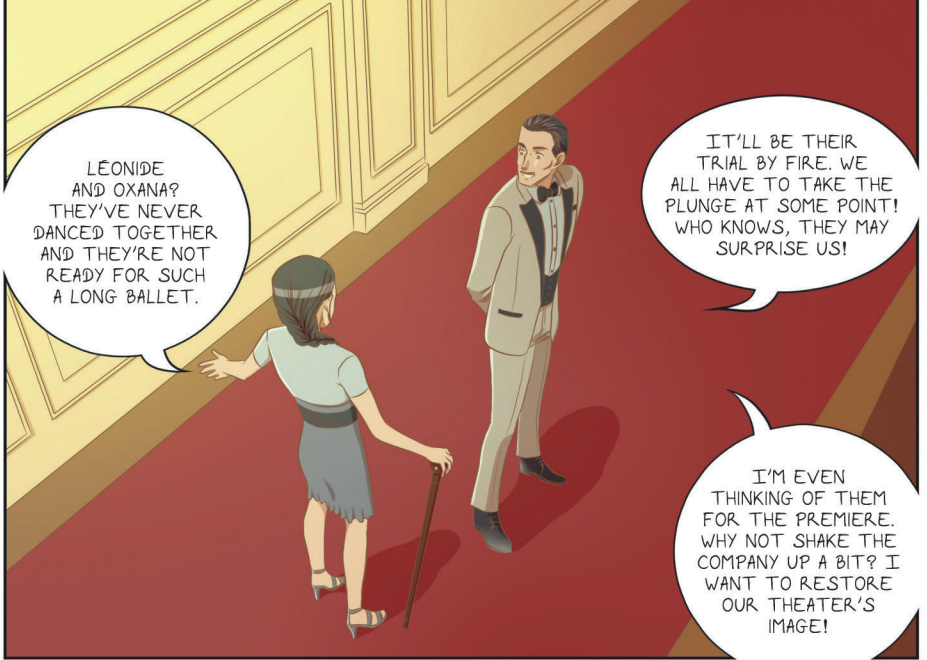




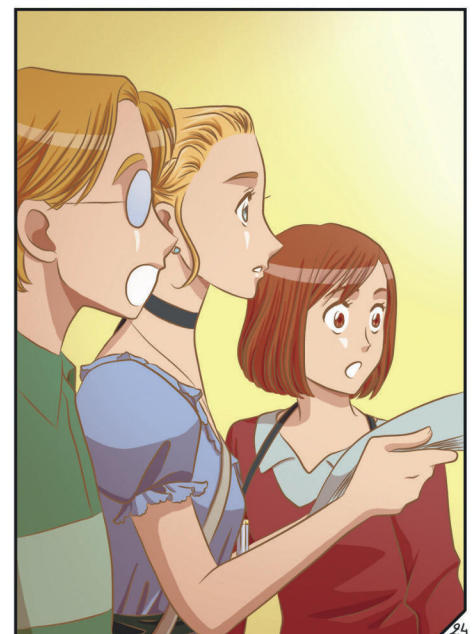
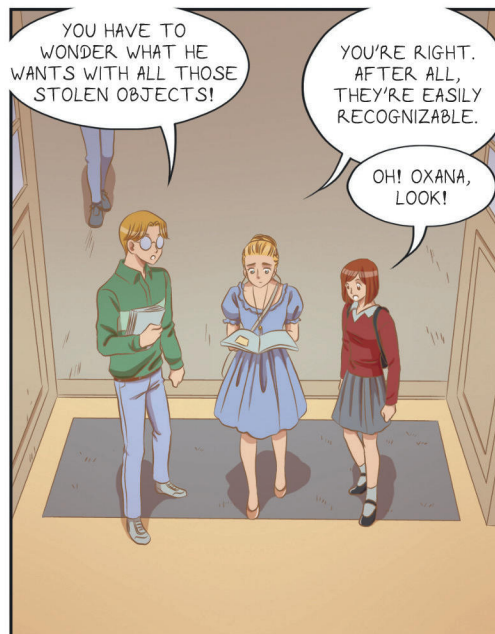
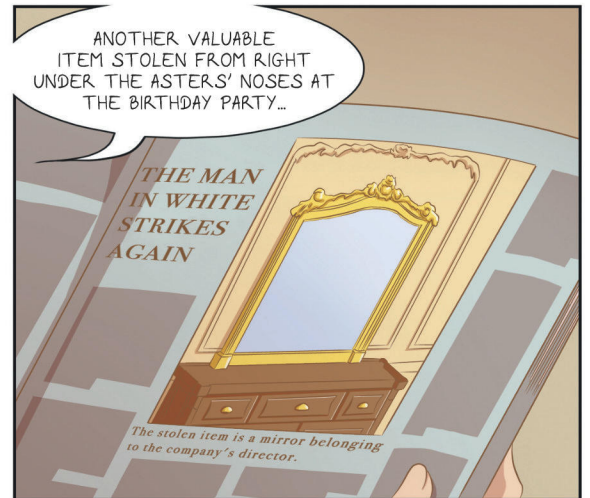
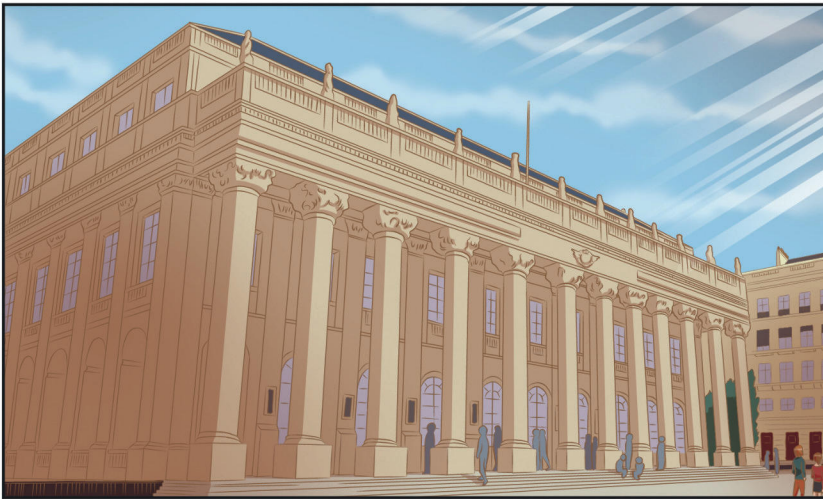
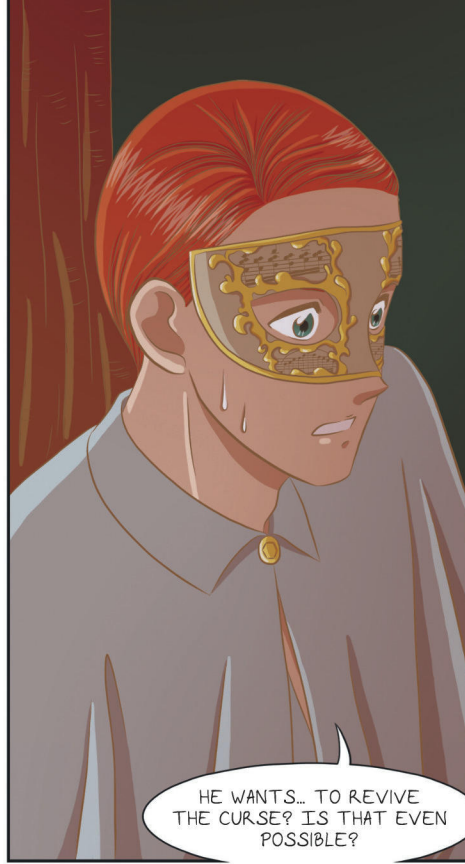




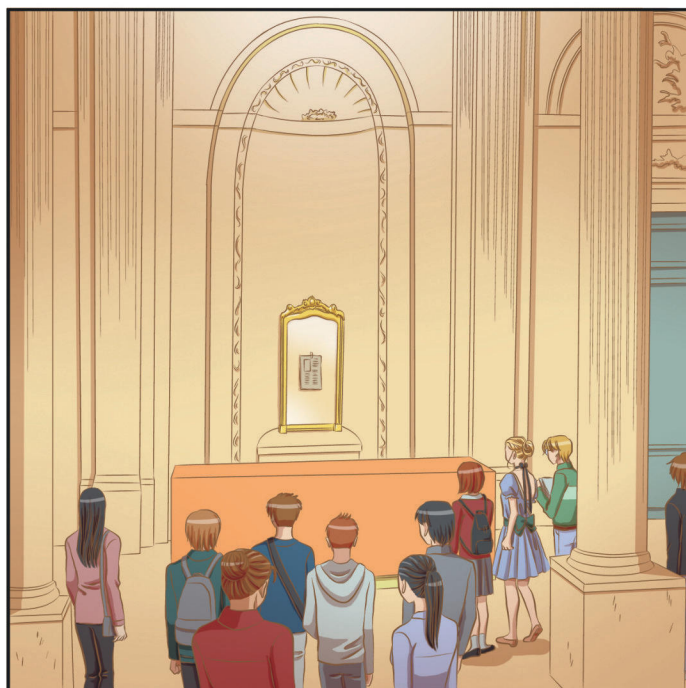




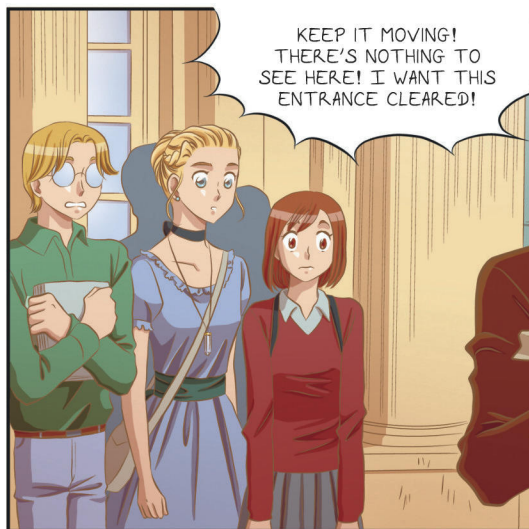
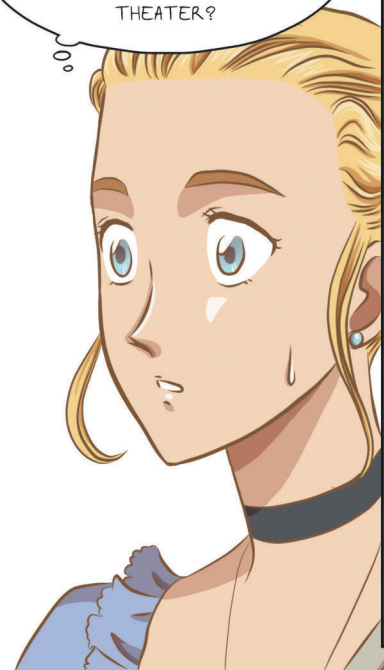




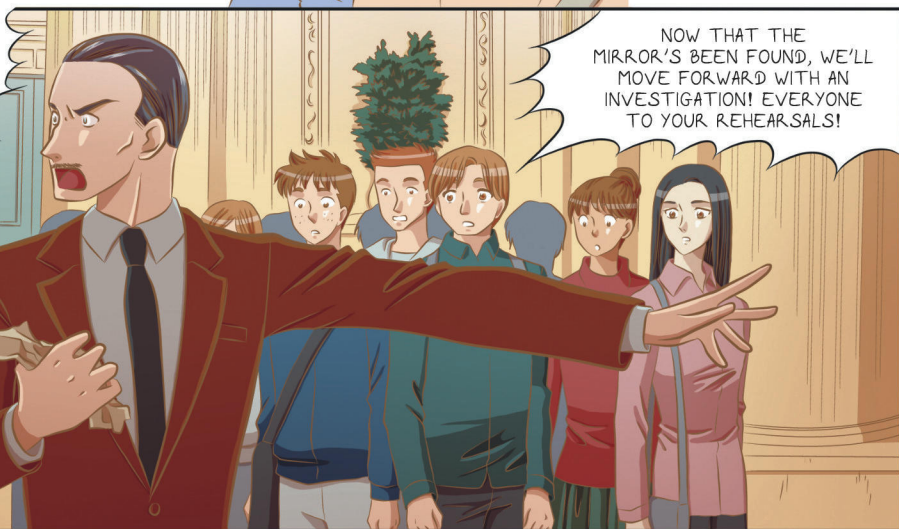




HE'S DEFINITELY THE ONE WHO STOLE THE MIRROR. THAT'S WHY HE WAS AT THE PARTY. BUT WHY BRING IT TO THE GRAND THEATER?



KEEP IT MOVING! THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE HERE! I WANT THIS ENTRANCE CLEARED!



NOW THAT THE MIRROR'S BEEN FOUND, WE'LL MOVE FORWARD WITH AN INVESTIGATION! EVERYONE TO YOUR REHEARSALS!



HOW DARE HE HUMILIATE ME LIKE THIS?



BY THE WAY, LEONIDE LEFT THE PARTY QUITE EARLY... MAYBE HE SAW OR HEARD SOMETHING?



LEONIDE? BUT HOW COULD HE...? IT CAN'T BE...

Mysterious theft at Grand Theater  
Date: 16 September 1898





LET'S CONCENTRATE, PEOPLE!

FROM THE TOP. LÉONIDE, HANAE--



OW! MY LEG!

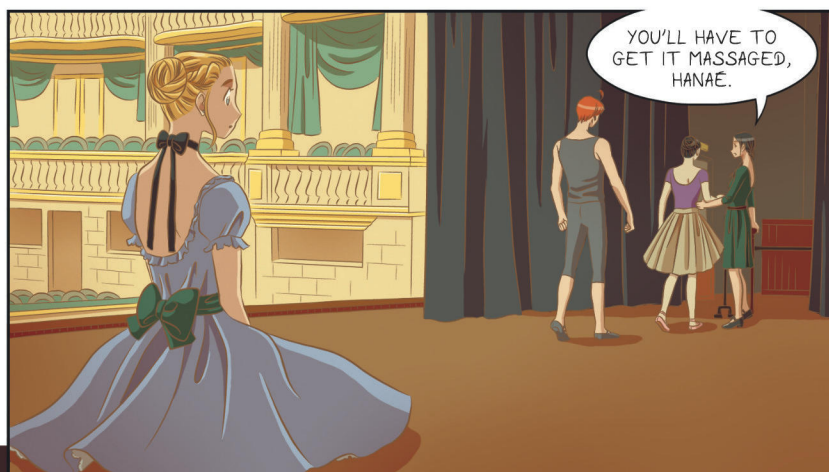
STOP! STOP!



WHAT'S WRONG, HANAE?

IT'S MY CALF. I THINK I PULLED A MUSCLE.

OH DEAR. THAT'S NOT GOOD. BUT IT'S BEST NOT TO FORCE IT.



YOU'LL HAVE TO GET IT MASSAGED, HANAE.

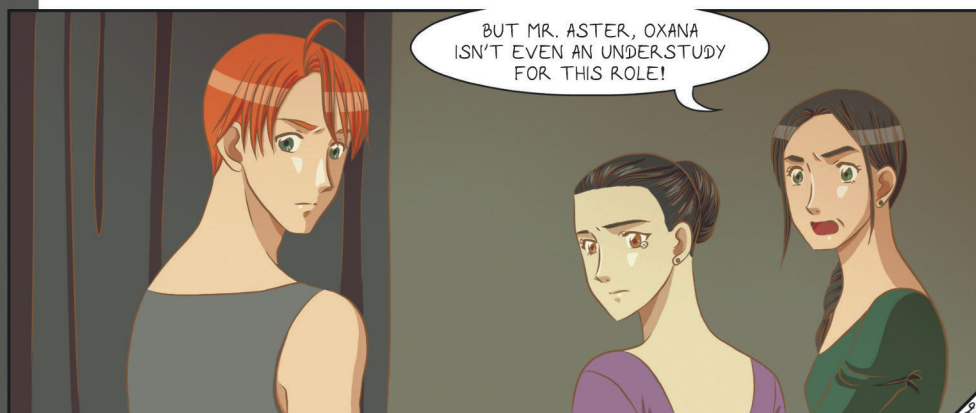


BUT WE ALSO NEED TO CONTINUE REHEARSING. JUMP IN, RAVENEL!



SORRY?

I SAID, YOU TAKE OVER FOR HANAE.



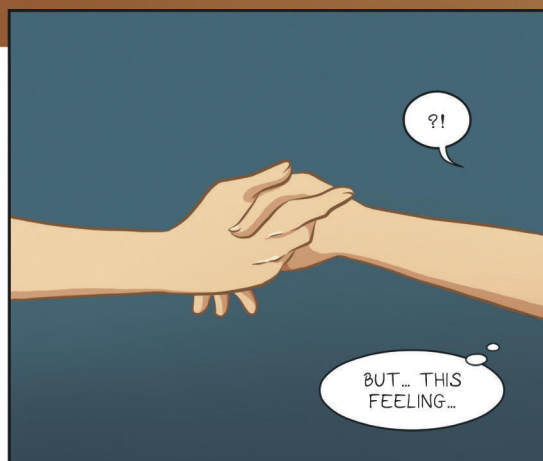
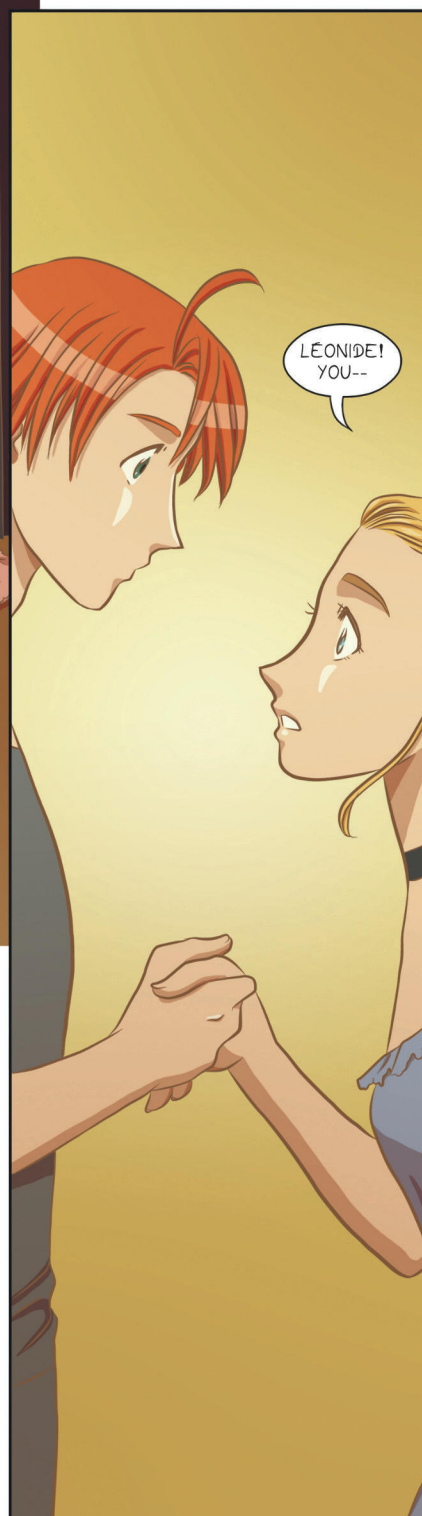
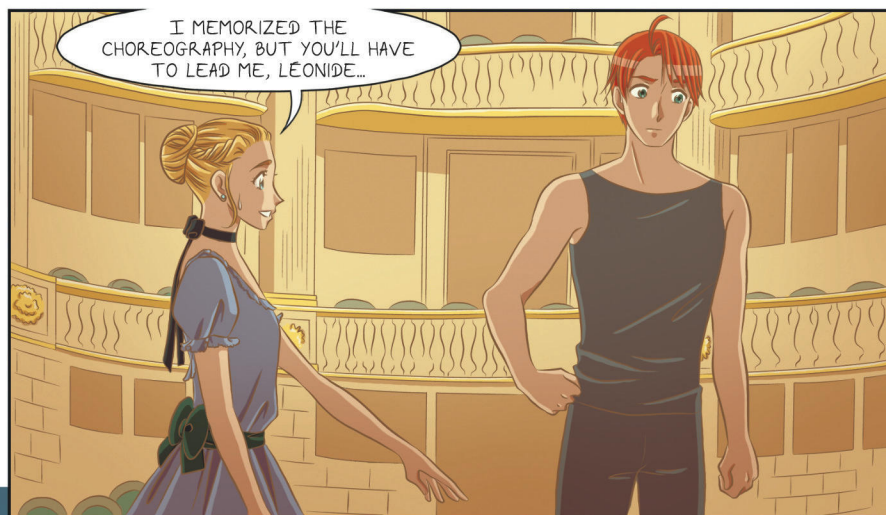
BUT MR. ASTER, OXANA ISN'T EVEN AN UNDERSTUDY FOR THIS ROLE!



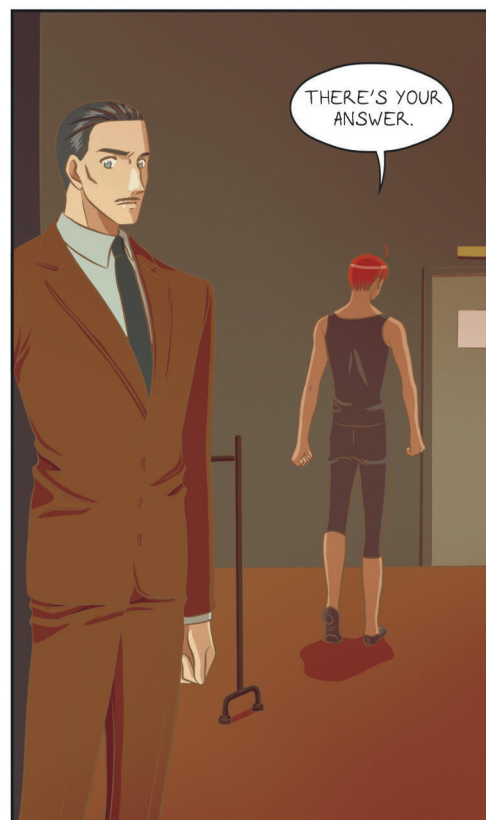
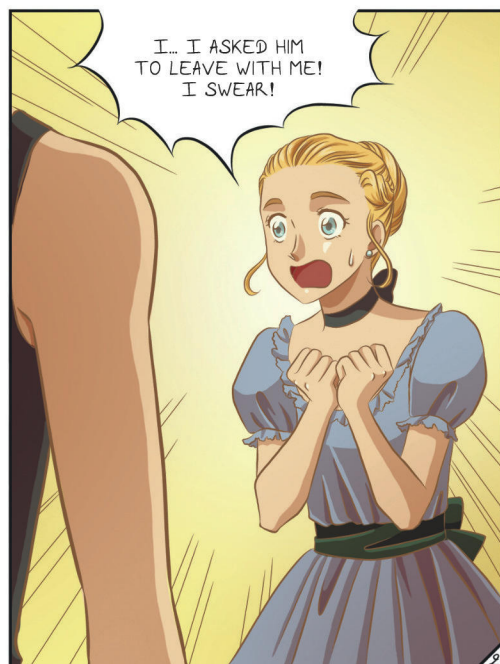
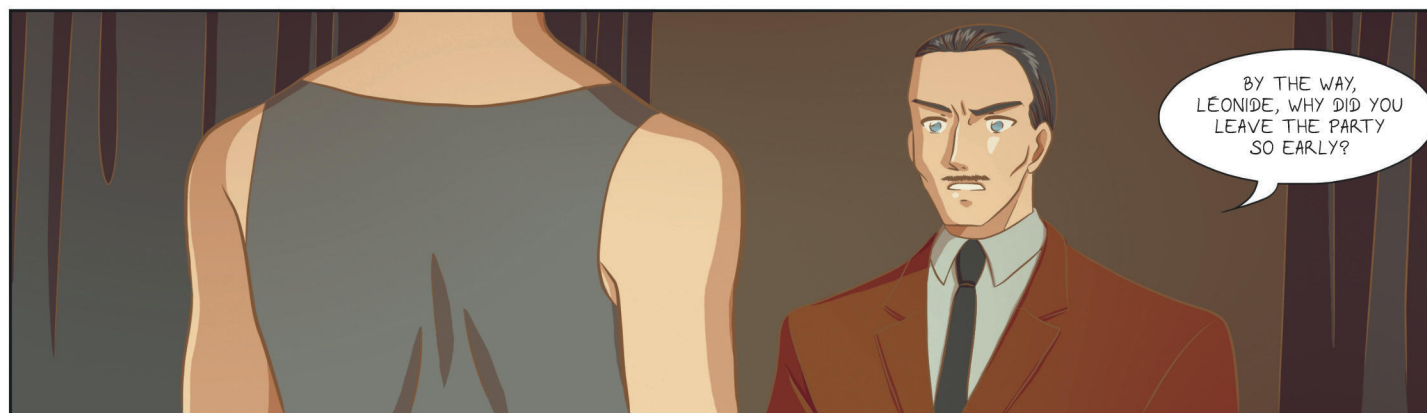
I MAKE THE DECISIONS! RAVENEL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU CAN DO IT, CAN'T YOU?

UH, YES, I THINK SO!

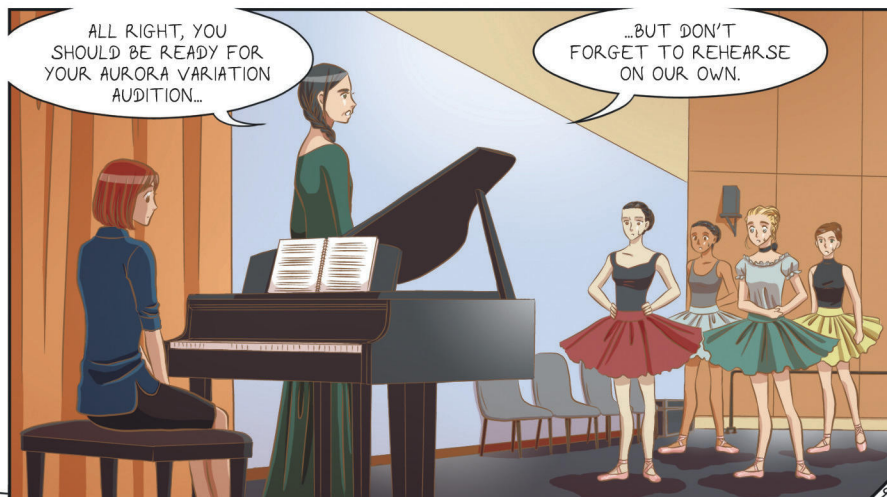




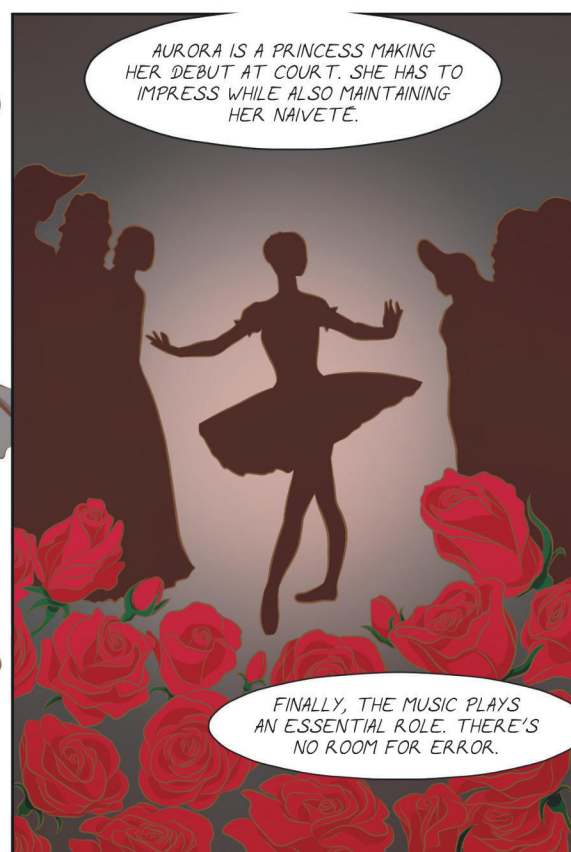




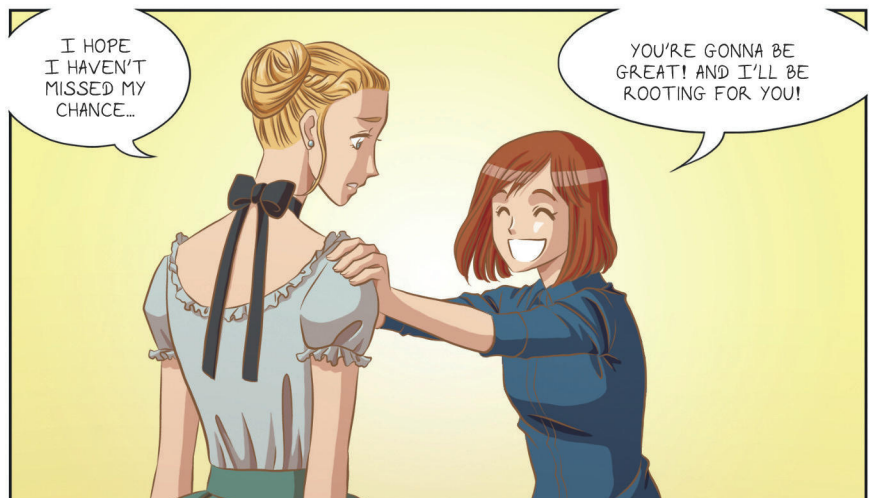
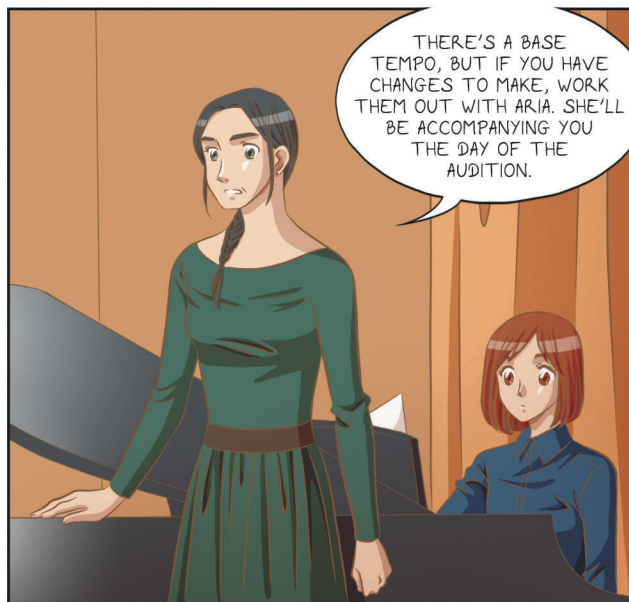




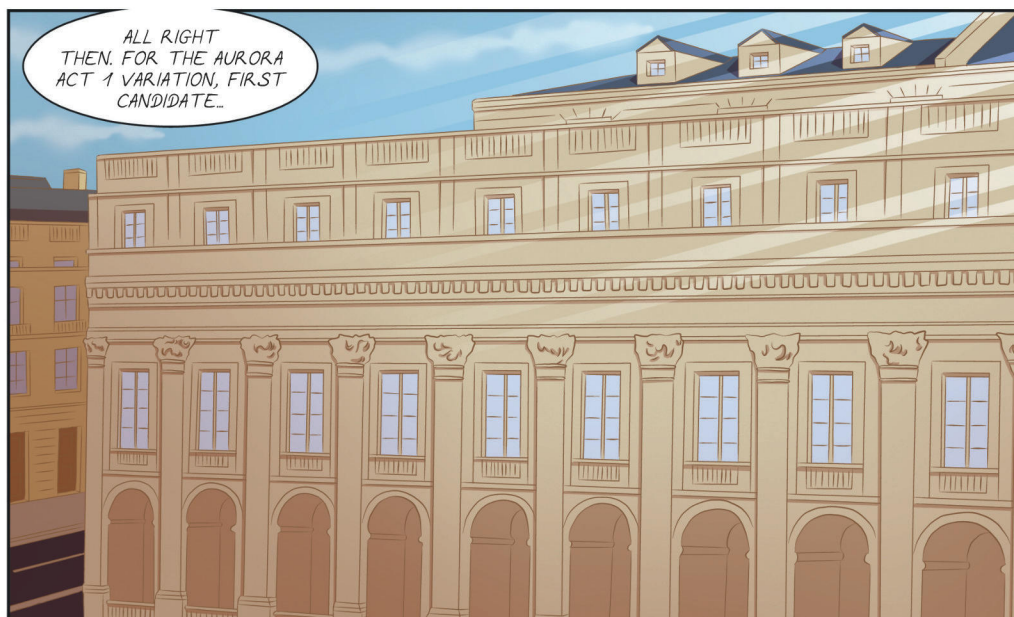
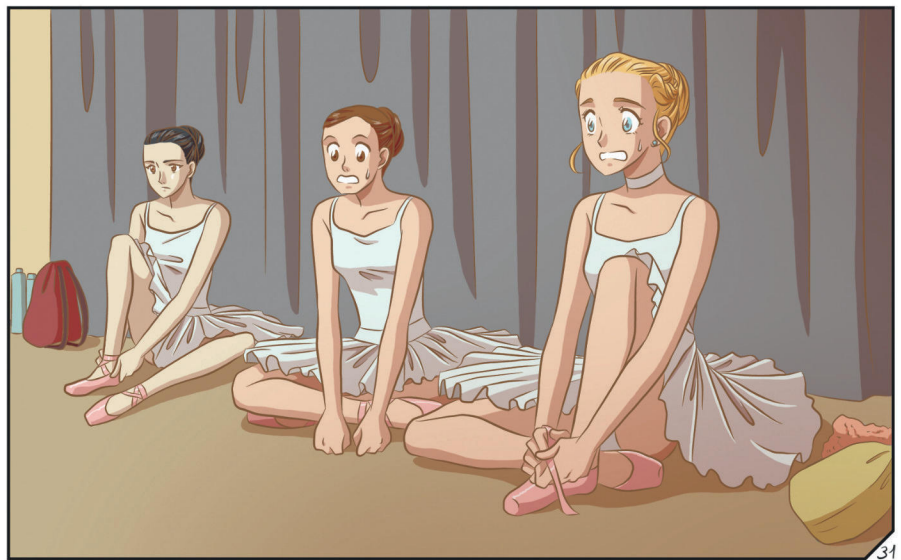
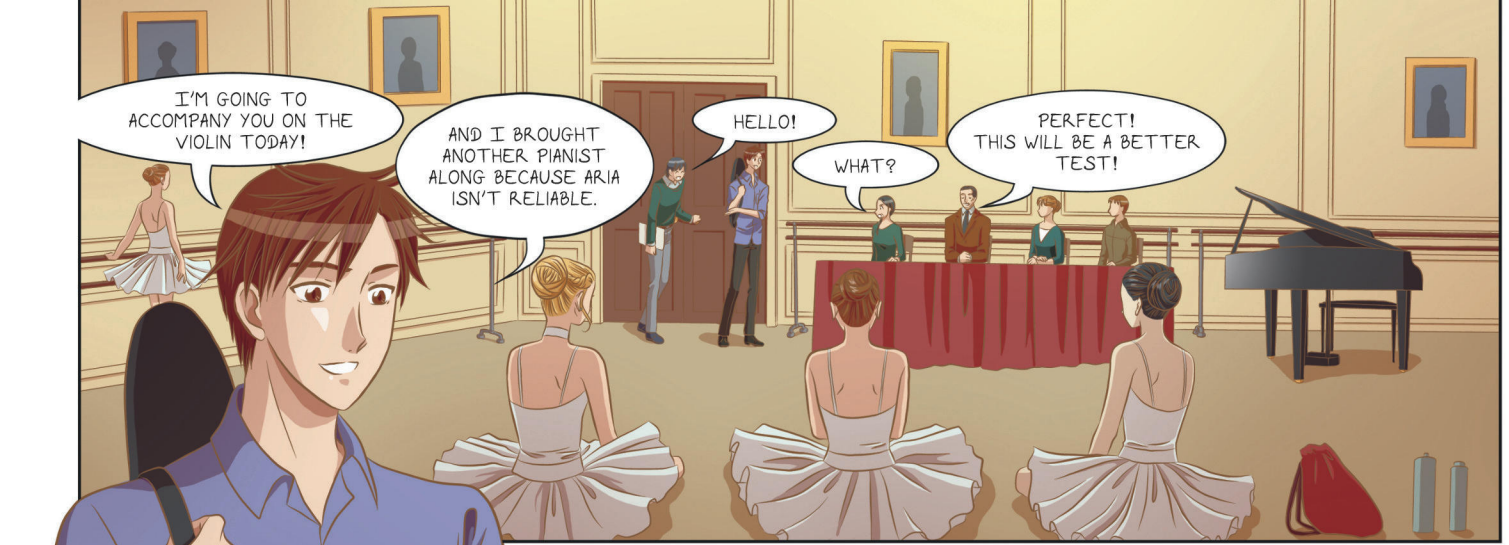
29



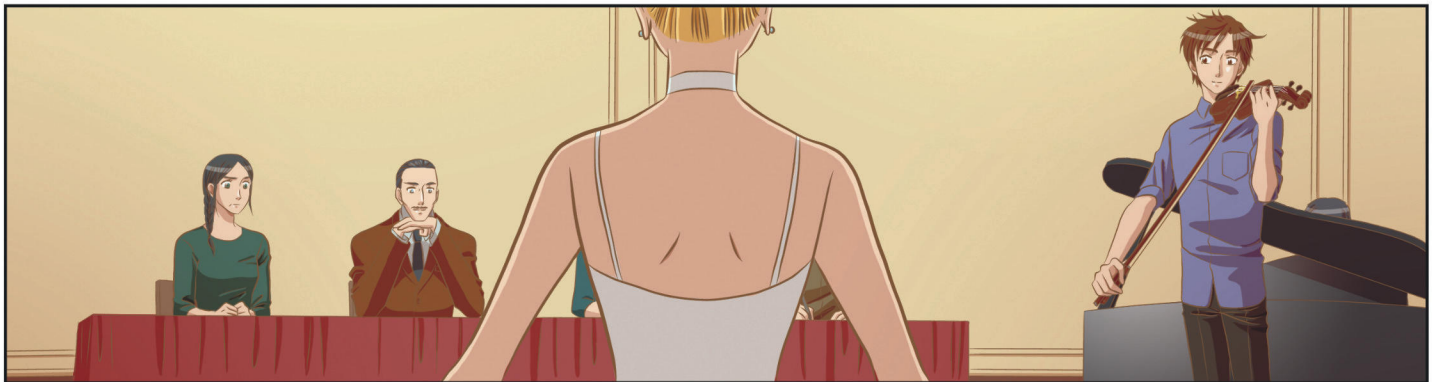
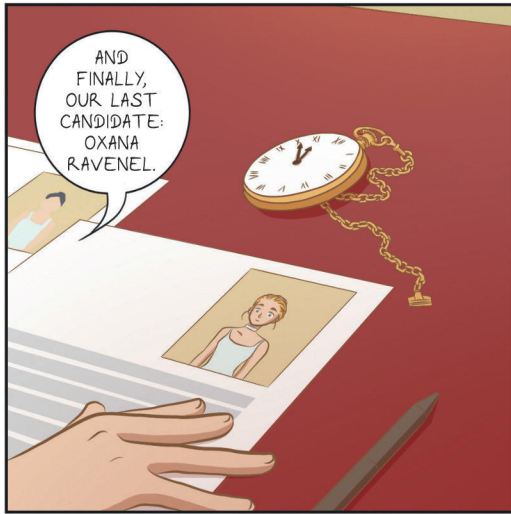




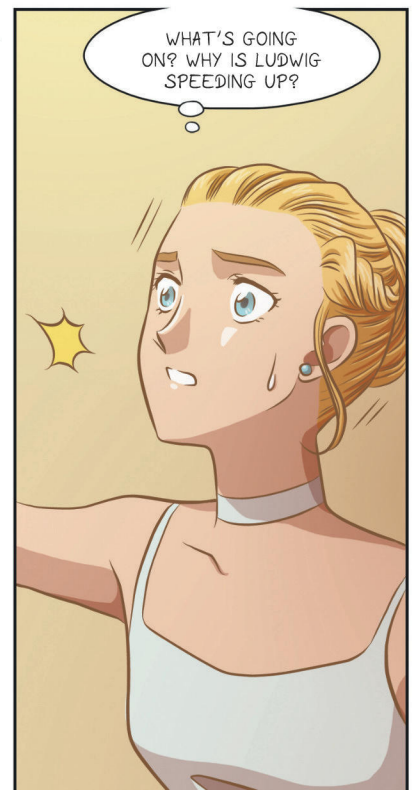




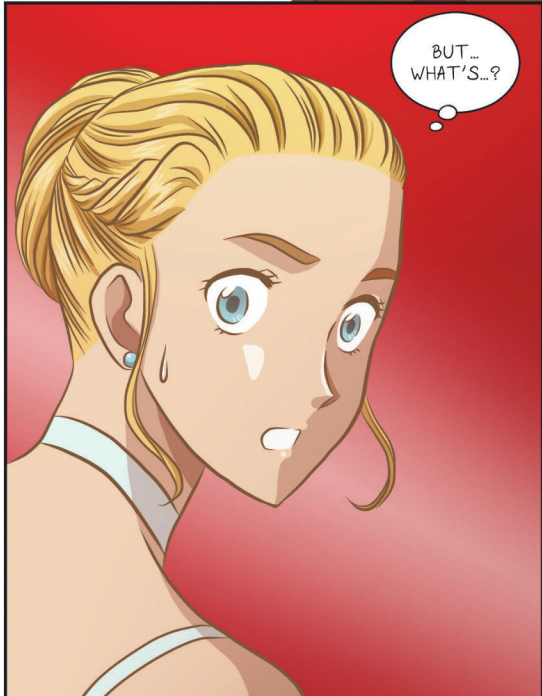
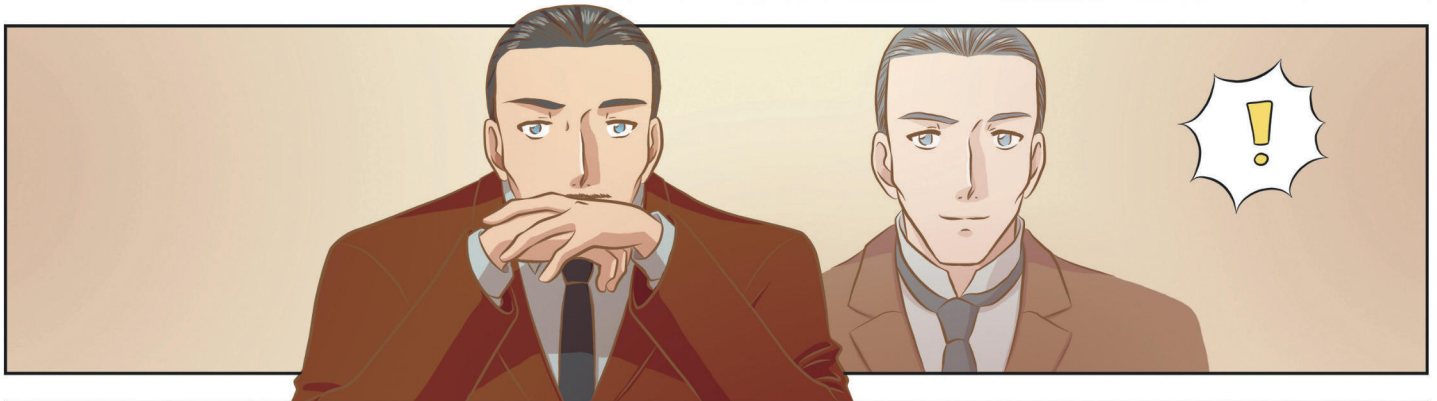
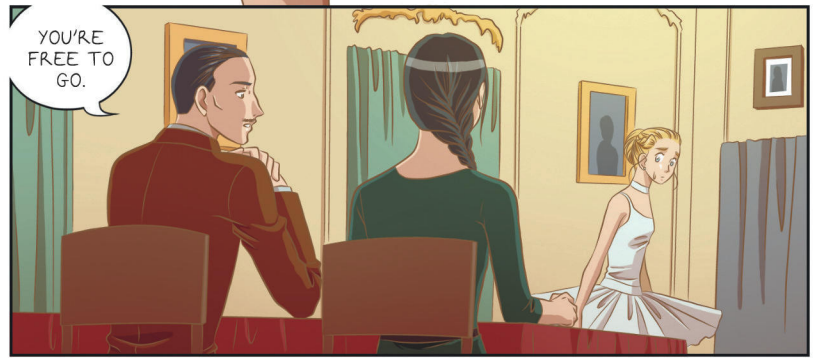
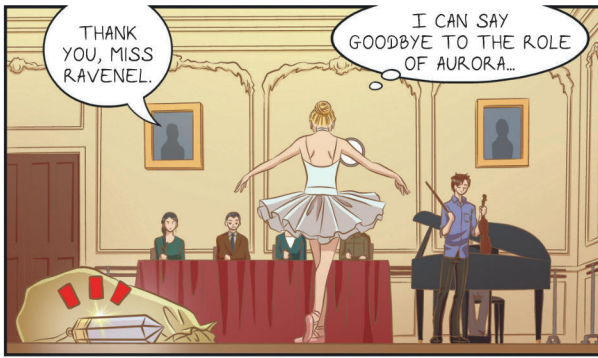
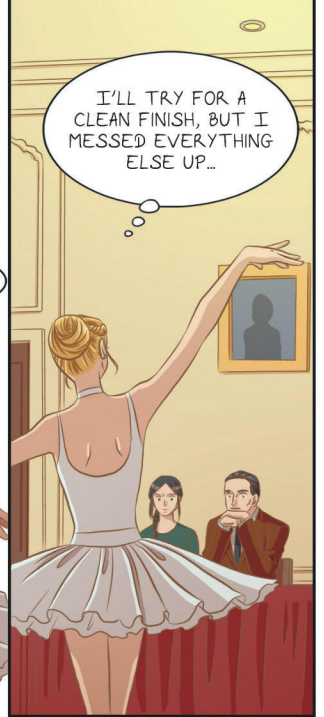
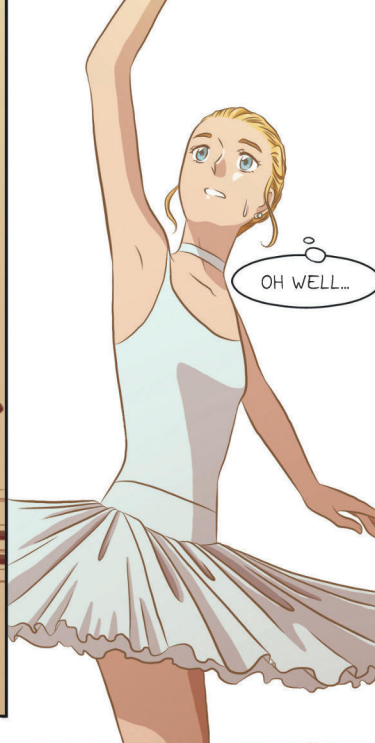




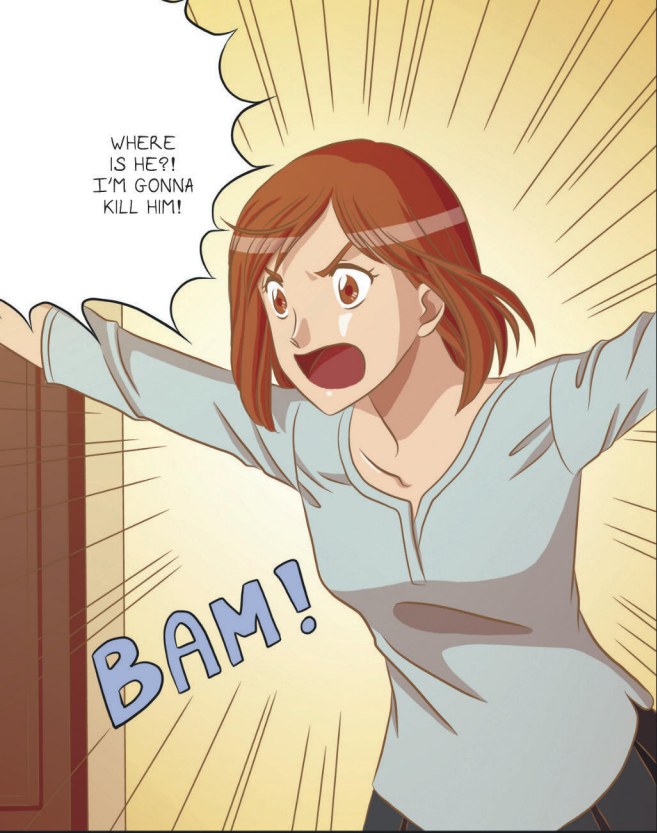
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WHERE IS HE?!  
I'M GONNA KILL HIM!

BAM!

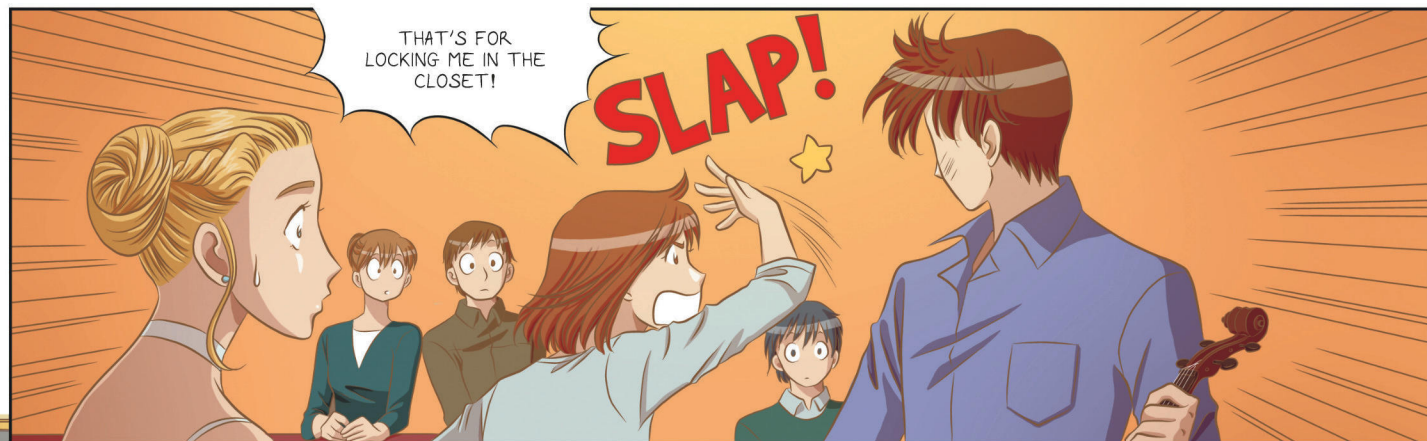


ARIA?



STOMP!

THIS TIME HE'S GONE TOO FAR!



THAT'S FOR LOCKING ME IN THE CLOSET!

SLAP!



IF YOU EVER TRY THAT AGAIN I'LL TEAR YOU TO PIECES!

ARIA...

ENOUGH! EVERYONE OUT! ARIA, COME TO MY OFFICE ONCE THE JURY HAS FINISHED DELIBERATING!

HA, HA!



HANAE WAS VERY GOOD, BUT I THINK HER INJURED CALF IS STILL BOTHERING HER.

OXANA CLEARLY WASN'T AT HER BEST...





...AND HER TECHNIQUE IS STILL WEAK. WE CLEARLY CAN'T CHOOSE HER FOR THE ROLE.



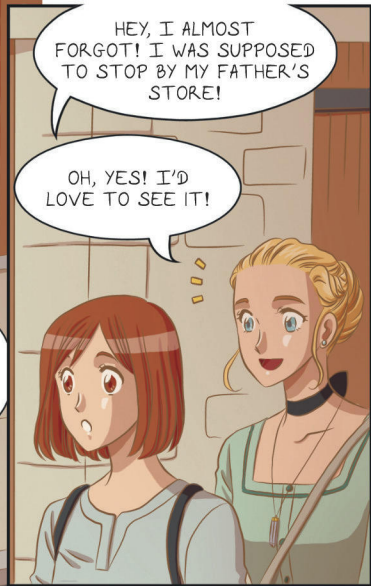
HMPF, MR. ASTER JUST CHEWED ME OUT! EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THAT HYPOCRITE LUDWIG'S FAULT!



AT LEAST THAT SLAP DIDN'T GET YOU EXPELLED!

I'M JUST SORRY YOUR AUDITION GOT RUINED!

AH WELL, MR. ASTER WOULD NEVER GIVE ME THE LEAD ANYWAY!



HEY, I ALMOST FORGOT! I WAS SUPPOSED TO STOP BY MY FATHER'S STORE!

OH, YES! I'D LOVE TO SEE IT!



HERE IT IS!



I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEELING...

YOU PROBABLY CAME HERE A CENTURY AGO; WE WERE A GRAND THEATER SUPPLIER EVEN THEN!



NO, IT'S SOMETHING ELSE...

DAD? HELLO?



WHY DOES THIS PLACE MAKE ME FEEL SO UNEASY?

HELLO? ANYONE HERE?



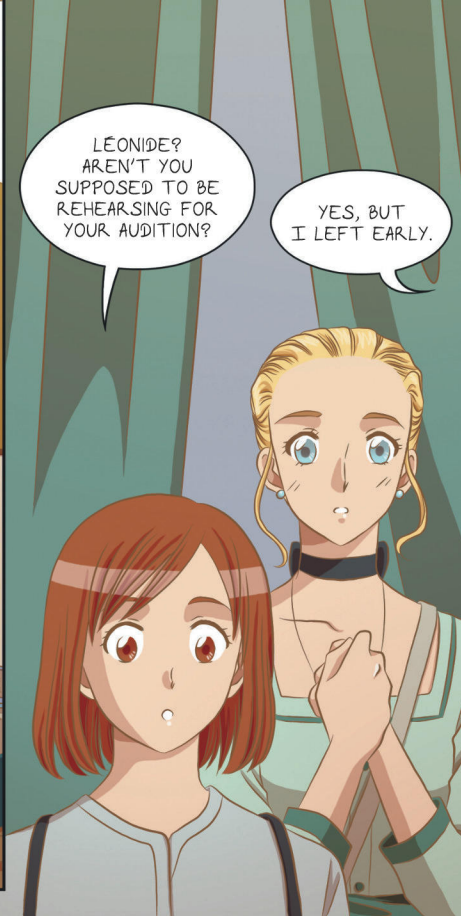
OH, ARIA! HI! AND THIS MUST BE YOUR FRIEND, OXANA?

PERFECT TIMING! LEONIDE'S HERE, TOO!





WE'RE GOING THROUGH SOME OLD RECORDS! IT'S FASCINATING!



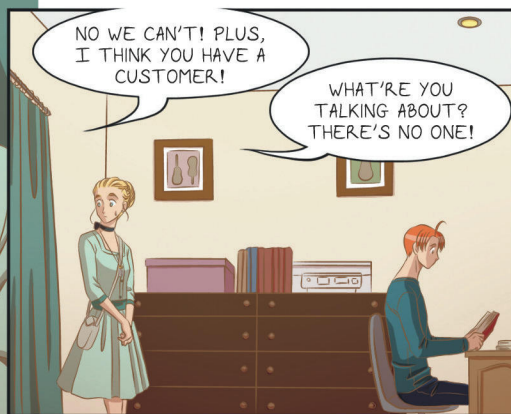
LÉONIDE? AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE REHEARSING FOR YOUR AUDITION?

YES, BUT I LEFT EARLY.



OKAY, DAD, I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU! COME ON!

BUT WE CAN TALK JUST FINE RIGHT HERE!



NO WE CAN'T! PLUS, I THINK YOU HAVE A CUSTOMER!

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NO ONE!



I'M GUESSING YOU HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS?

WELL, YES, ABOUT THE MAN IN WHITE, LÉONIDE, YOU... YOU'RE THE ONE WHO...



YOU THINK I'M A THIEF, RIGHT?



NOT AT ALL! I NEVER SAID THAT!

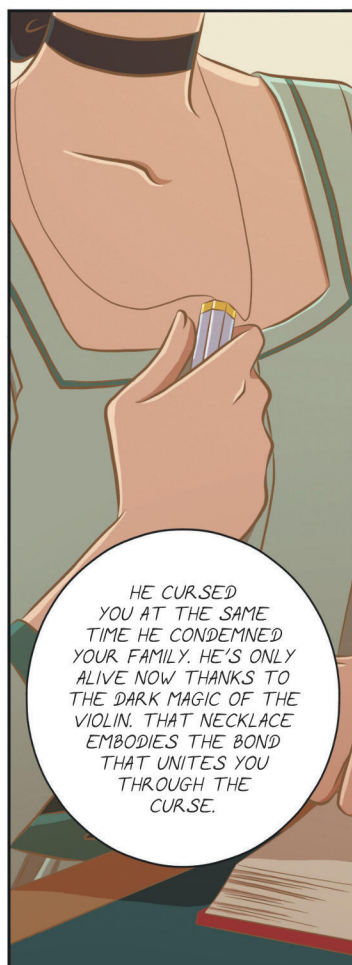
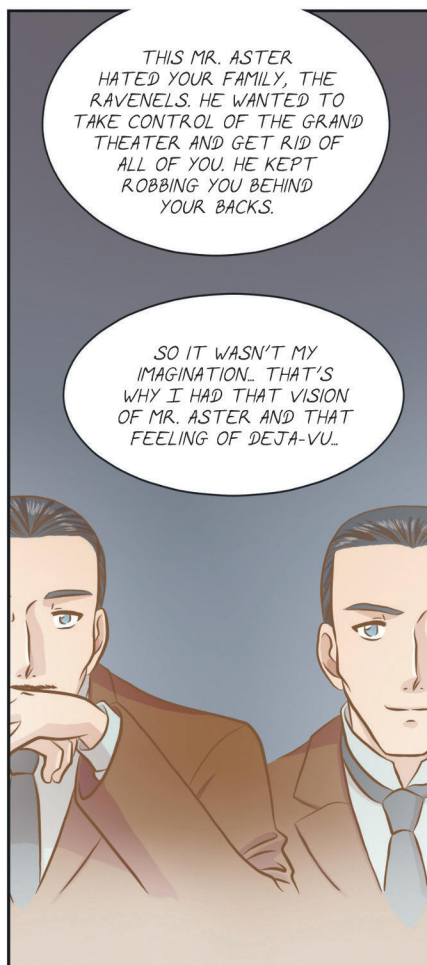
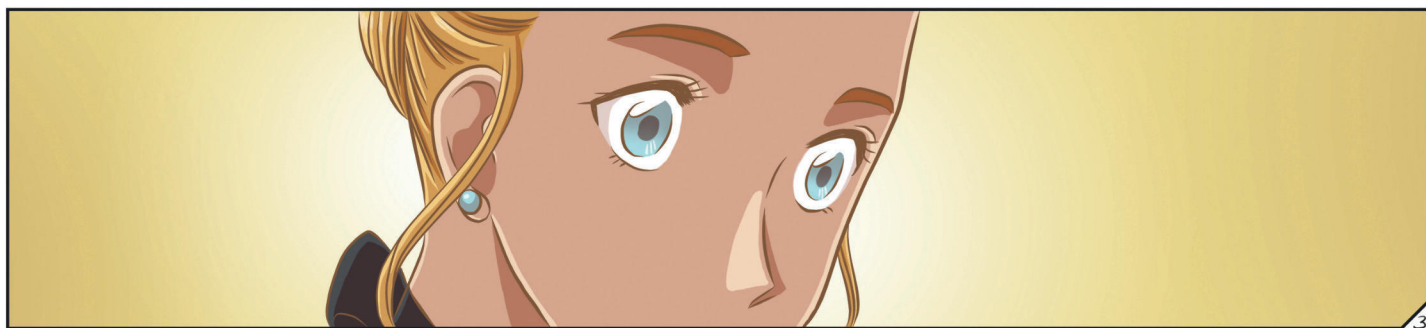
**BAM!**



LISTEN, DON'T GET ANGRY, BUT--

I'M NOT ANGRY. PLEASE SIT DOWN.





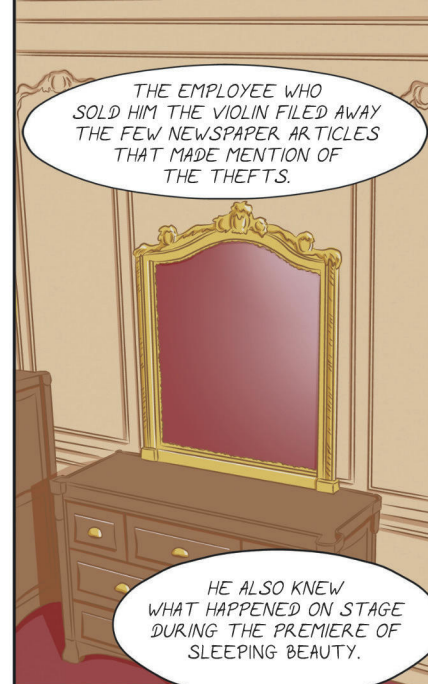




YOU SEE, THE ASTER ESTATE AND EVERYTHING THAT BELONGS TO MY FAMILY COMES FROM STOLEN MONEY.

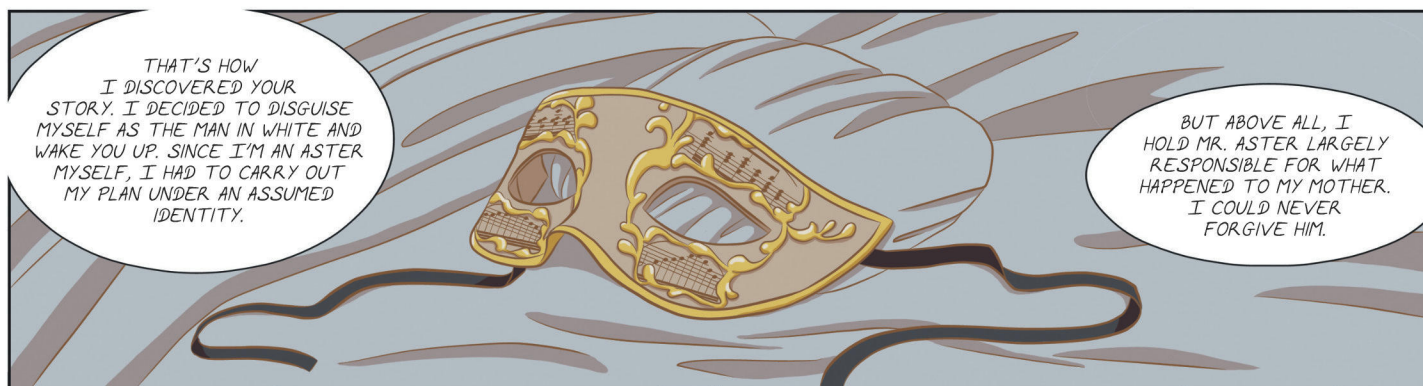


MR. ASTER MANAGED TO ERASE ALL TRACE OF THE THEFTS AND YOUR EXISTENCE.



THE EMPLOYEE WHO SOLD HIM THE VIOLIN FILED AWAY THE FEW NEWSPAPER ARTICLES THAT MADE MENTION OF THE THEFTS.

HE ALSO KNEW WHAT HAPPENED ON STAGE DURING THE PREMIERE OF SLEEPING BEAUTY.



THAT'S HOW I DISCOVERED YOUR STORY. I DECIDED TO DISGUISE MYSELF AS THE MAN IN WHITE AND WAKE YOU UP. SINCE I'M AN ASTER MYSELF, I HAD TO CARRY OUT MY PLAN UNDER AN ASSUMED IDENTITY.

BUT ABOVE ALL, I HOLD MR. ASTER LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO MY MOTHER. I COULD NEVER FORGIVE HIM.



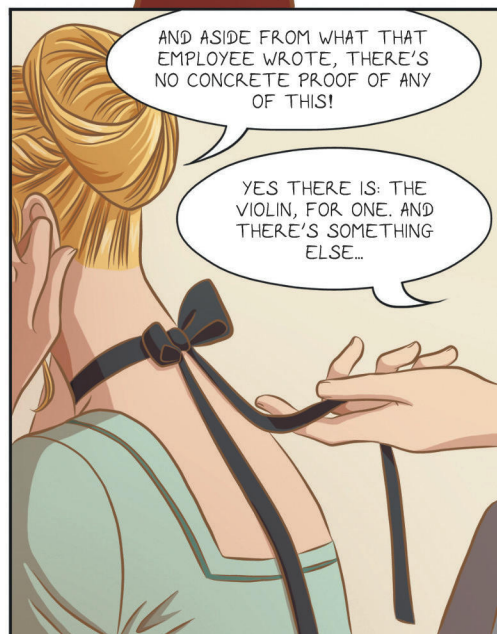
ONCE HE'S FOUND OUT, HE'LL FINALLY HAVE TO PAY FOR HIS CRIMES. HE'S BEEN FEARED BY THE ENTIRE COMPANY FOR GENERATIONS.

IN MY EYES, YOU WERE THE ONLY REMAINING WITNESS TO THIS DESPICABLE MAN'S CRIMES.. HE MUST BE STOPPED, FOREVER.



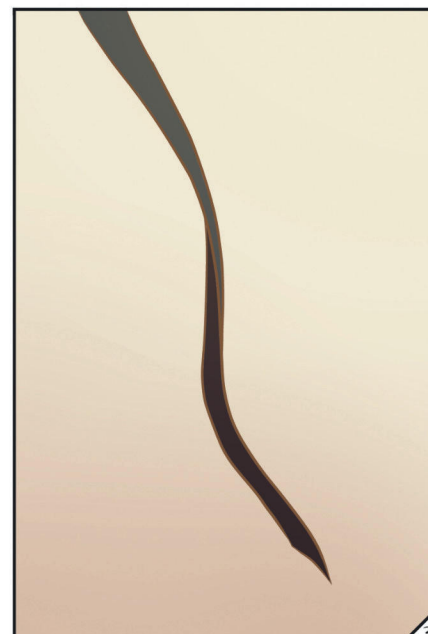
LEONIDE, YOU... YOU MEAN TO SAY I WAS JUST A PART OF YOUR SCHEME FOR REVENGE?

IS THAT ALL I AM TO YOU? A WITNESS? IN ANY CASE, ASSUMING ALL OF IT'S EVEN TRUE, I HARDLY REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THAT TIME!



AND ASIDE FROM WHAT THAT EMPLOYEE WROTE, THERE'S NO CONCRETE PROOF OF ANY OF THIS!

YES THERE IS: THE VIOLIN, FOR ONE. AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...





THAT SCAR ON YOUR  
NECK IS PROOF THAT THE  
VIOLIN CORD STRANDED YOU  
THE NIGHT MR. ASTER  
ACQUIRED IT.

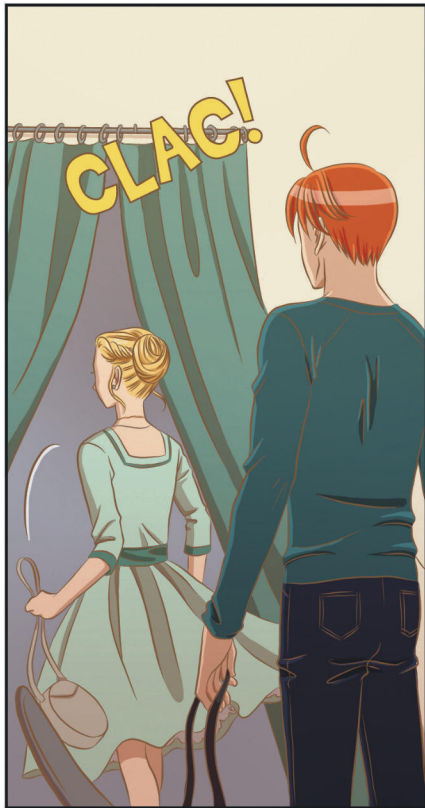
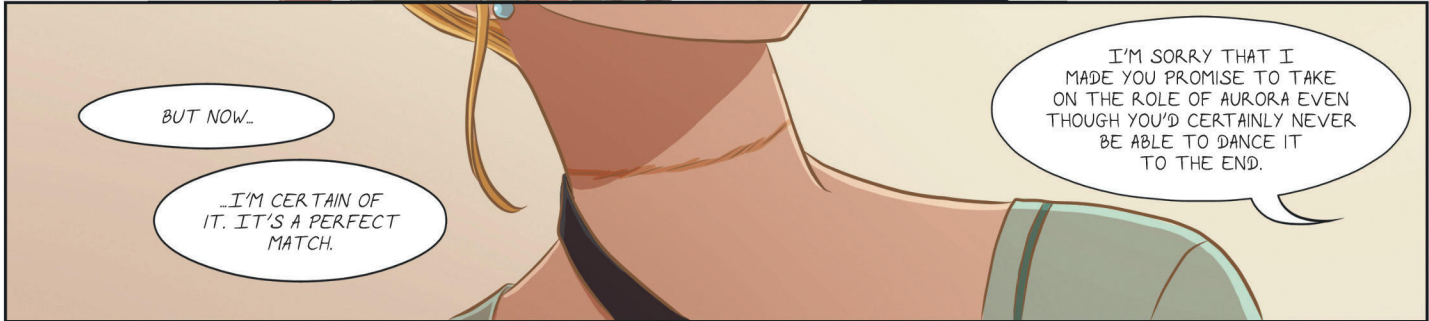
I ALWAYS  
WONDERED IF IT  
WAS STILL THERE,  
HIDDEN BENEATH  
YOUR RIBBON.



BUT NOW...

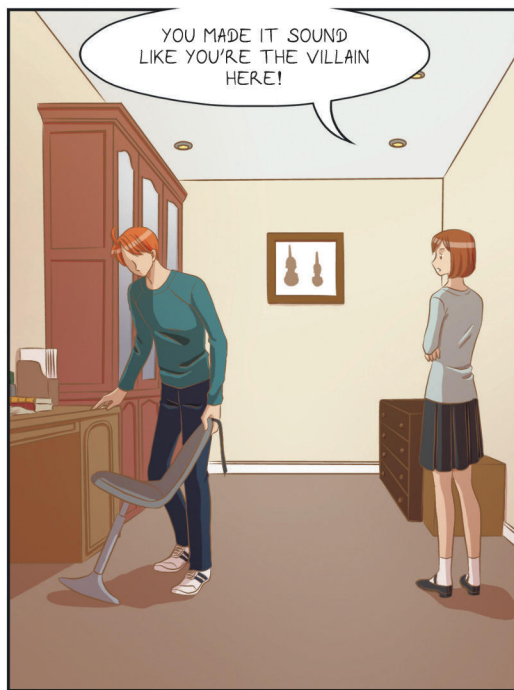
...I'M CERTAIN OF  
IT. IT'S A PERFECT  
MATCH.

I'M SORRY THAT I  
MADE YOU PROMISE TO TAKE  
ON THE ROLE OF AURORA EVEN  
THOUGH YOU'D CERTAINLY NEVER  
BE ABLE TO DANCE IT  
TO THE END.

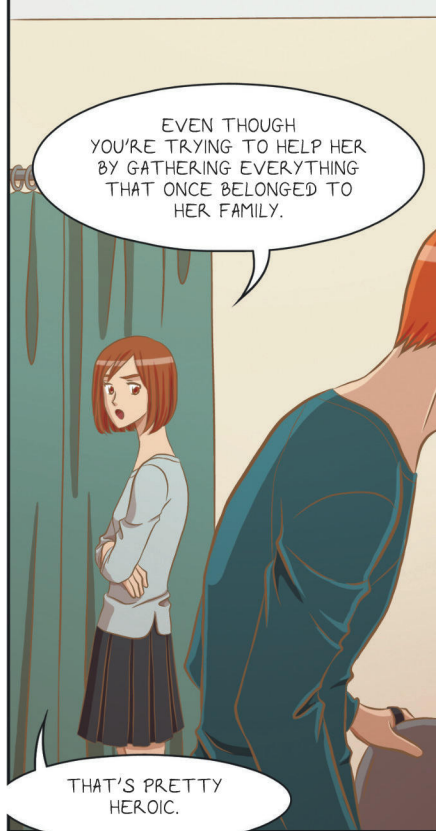


SORRY,  
LÉONIDE, WE HEARD  
EVERYTHING...





YOU MADE IT SOUND  
LIKE YOU'RE THE VILLAIN  
HERE!



EVEN THOUGH  
YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP HER  
BY GATHERING EVERYTHING  
THAT ONCE BELONGED TO  
HER FAMILY.

THAT'S PRETTY  
HEROIC.



NO, ARIA, YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND...



I'D LOVE TO SEE  
HER AS AURORA, BUT SHE  
CAN NEVER DANCE THAT  
BALLET, BECAUSE...

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...IF MY SUSPICIONS ARE RIGHT,  
SHE'D NEVER SURVIVE.

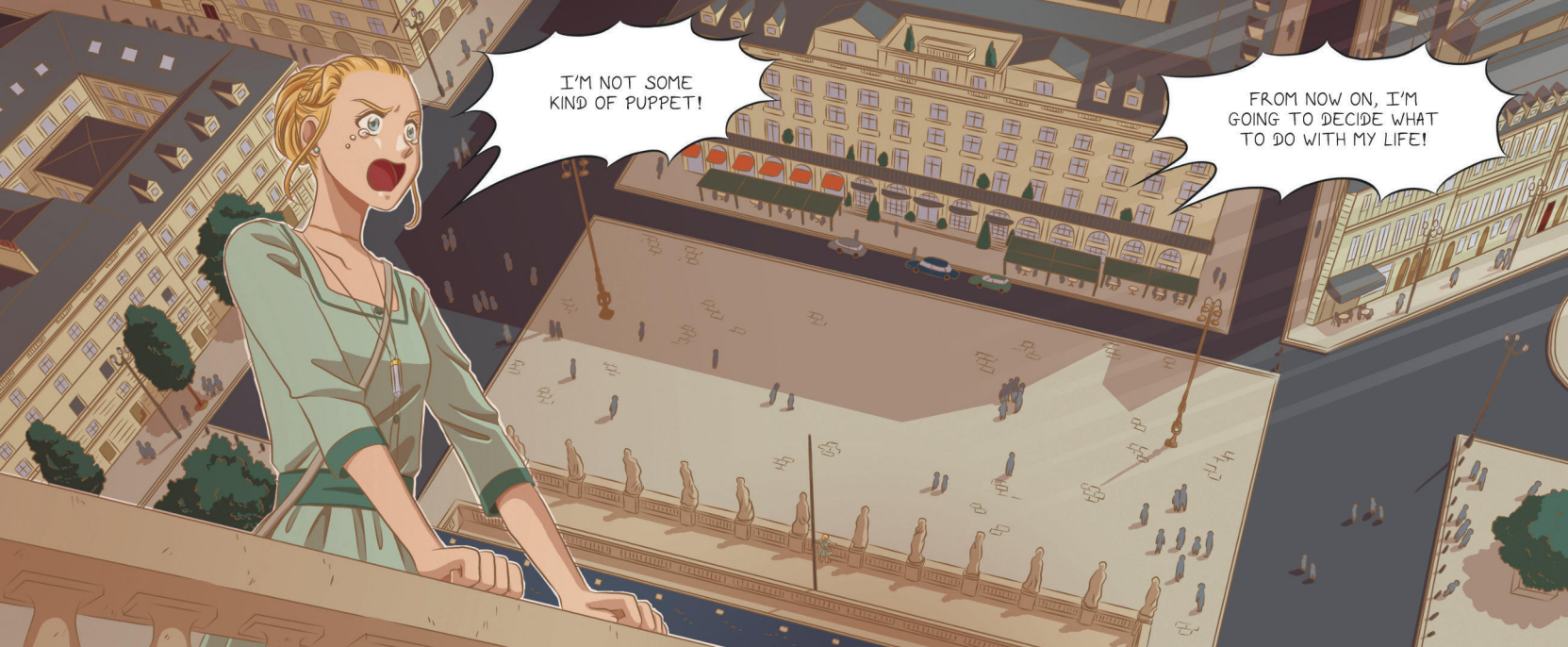
AND I DON'T WANT  
TO LOSE HER!



FROM THE START,  
I KNEW THAT IF MR. ASTER  
DISAPPEARED, OXANA WOULD  
SHARE THE SAME FATE...

A WITNESS?  
PROOF? THAT'S ALL I WAS  
IN LÉONIDE'S EYES?



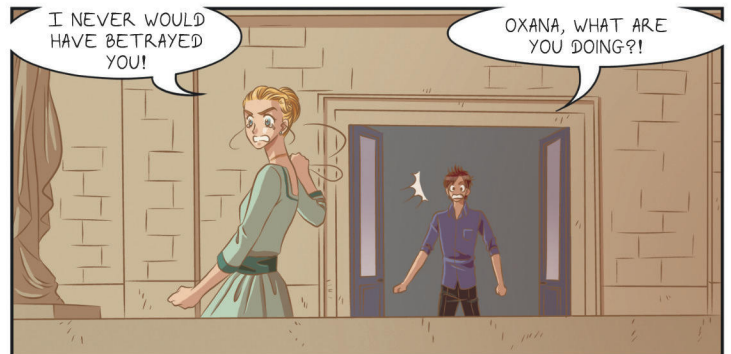


I'M NOT SOME  
KIND OF PUPPET!

FROM NOW ON, I'M  
GOING TO DECIDE WHAT  
TO DO WITH MY LIFE!



LEONIDE...  
WHY DIDN'T YOU  
TRUST ME?



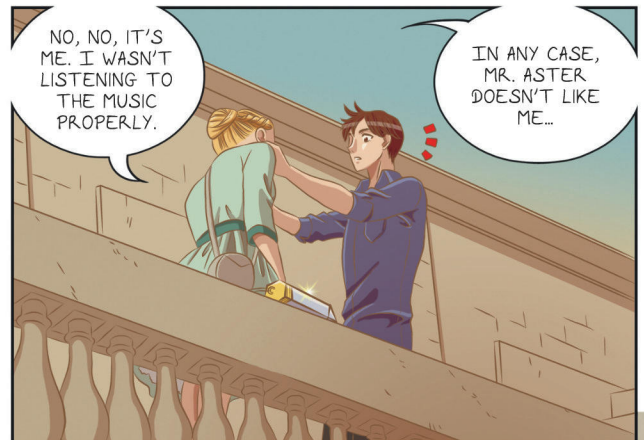
I NEVER WOULD  
HAVE BETRAYED  
YOU!

OXANA, WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?!



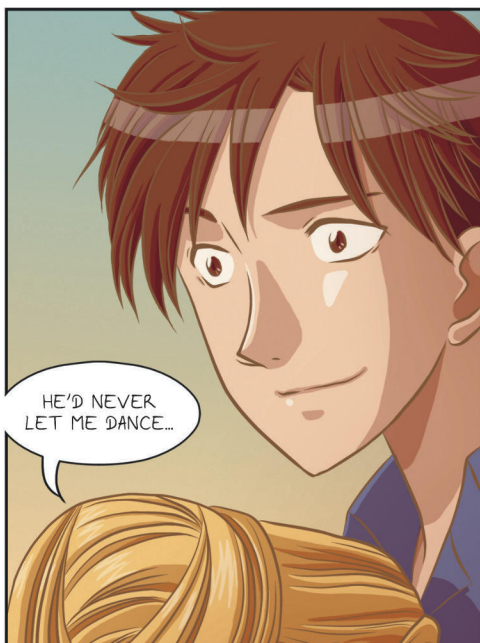
LUDWIG, I...  
I FEEL SO  
LOST...

OXANA, I'M  
SORRY ABOUT THIS  
MORNING! I SHOULD  
HAVE FOLLOWED  
YOU BETTER!



NO, NO, IT'S  
ME. I WASN'T  
LISTENING TO  
THE MUSIC  
PROPERLY.

IN ANY CASE,  
MR. ASTER  
DOESN'T LIKE  
ME...



HE'D NEVER  
LET ME DANCE...

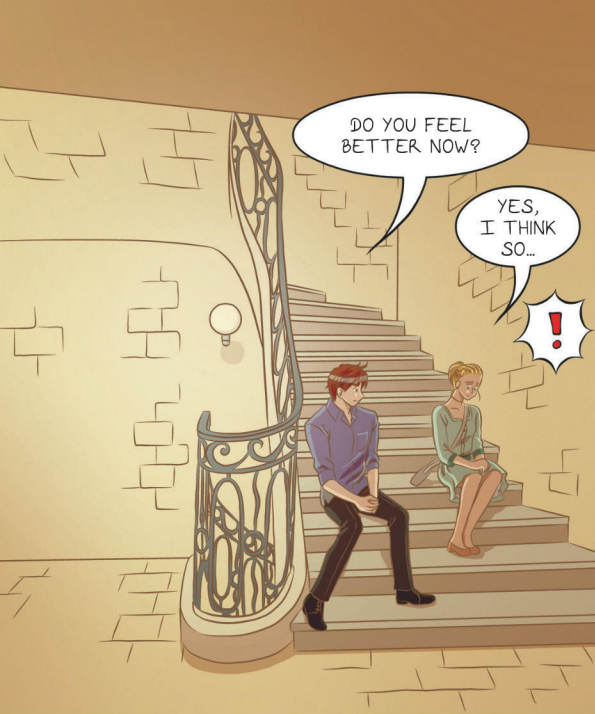


DON'T SAY THAT.  
I'M SURE YOU HAVE AS  
MUCH OF A CHANCE AS  
ANYONE.



HEY, TAKE  
IT EASY. LET'S SIT  
FOR A MINUTE...





DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?

YES, I THINK SO...



I... I FORGOT MY NECKLACE ON THE ROOF!

ARE YOU SURE?

YES, I'M GOING BACK!

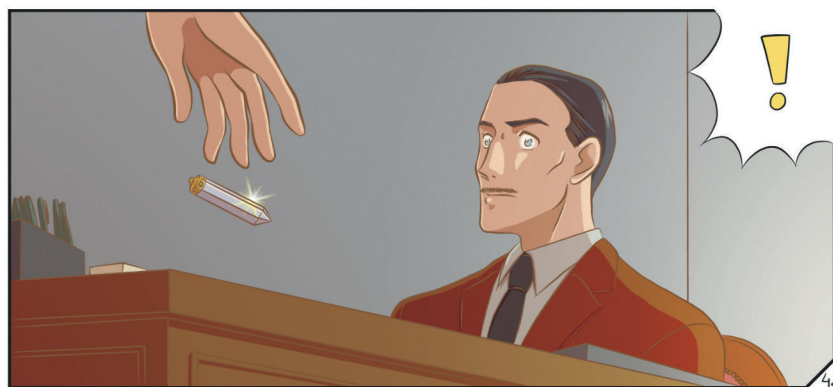


I DON'T SEE IT ANYWHERE! IT'S DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR! COULD IT HAVE FALLEN?



WHAT DO YOU WANT, LUDWIG?

I HAVE WHAT YOU ASKED FOR.



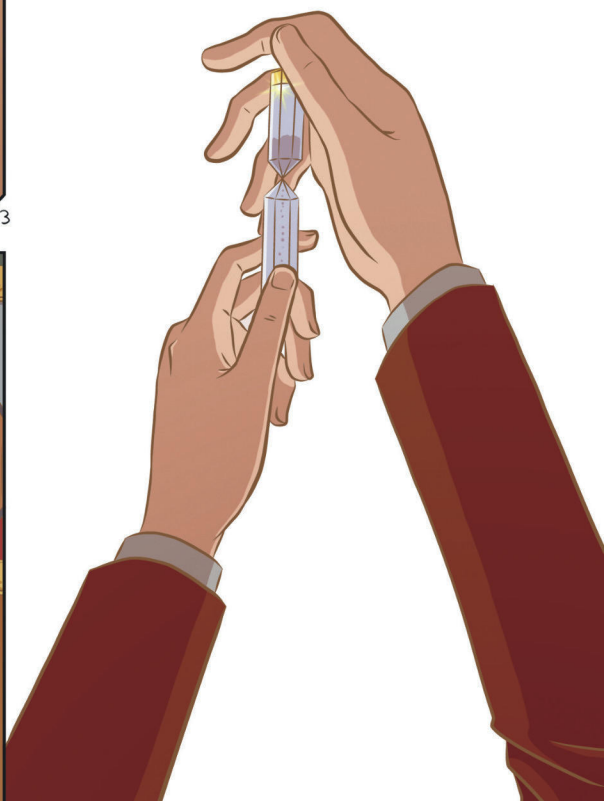
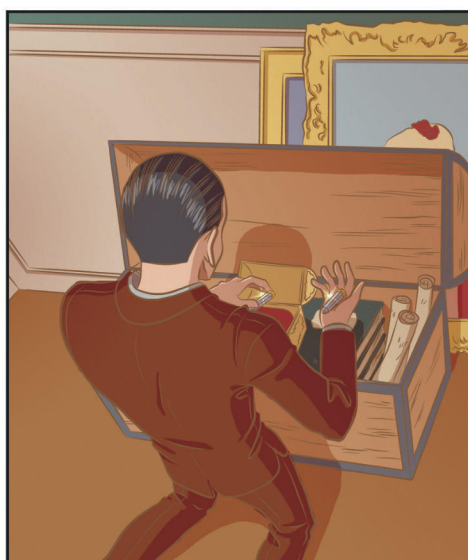
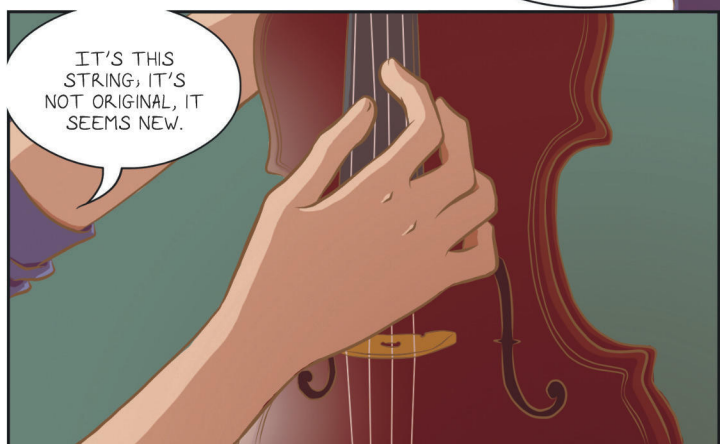
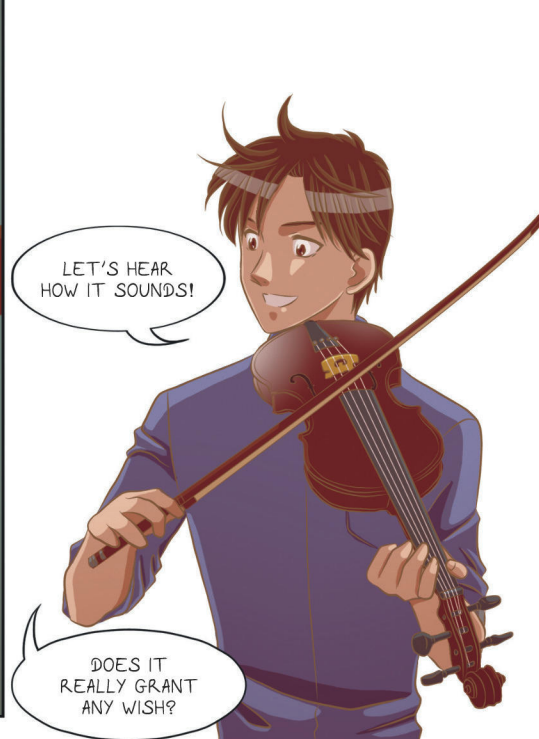
WELL, WELL. I'M IMPRESSED. AND HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET IT?

AH, IF ONLY YOU KNEW. I'M A MAN OF MANY TALENTS.

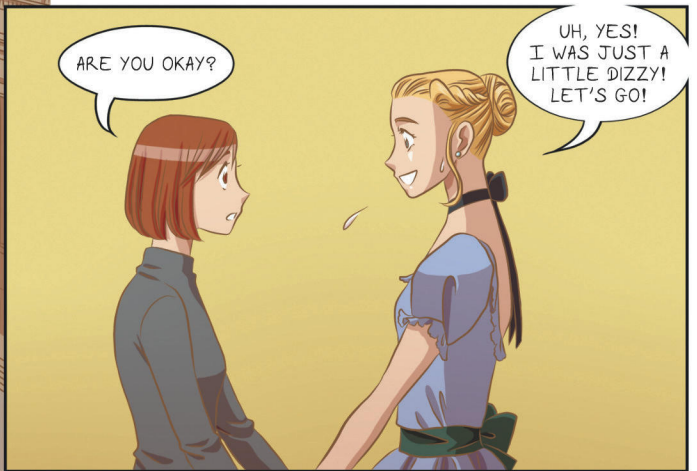
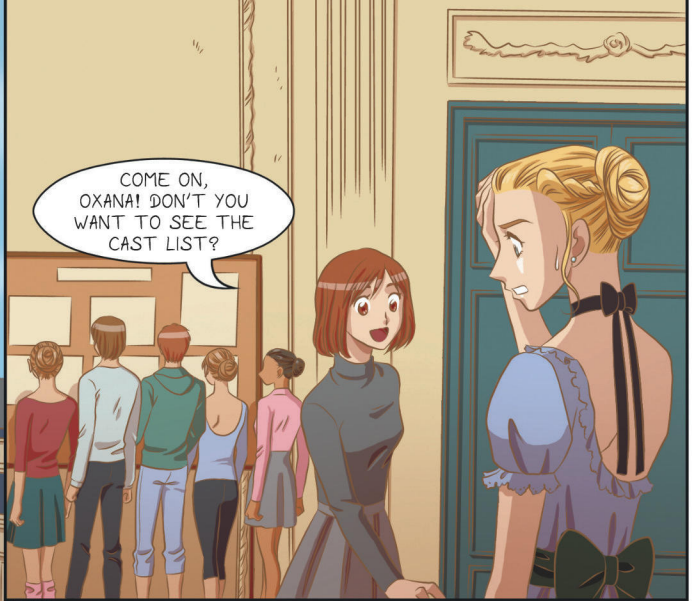
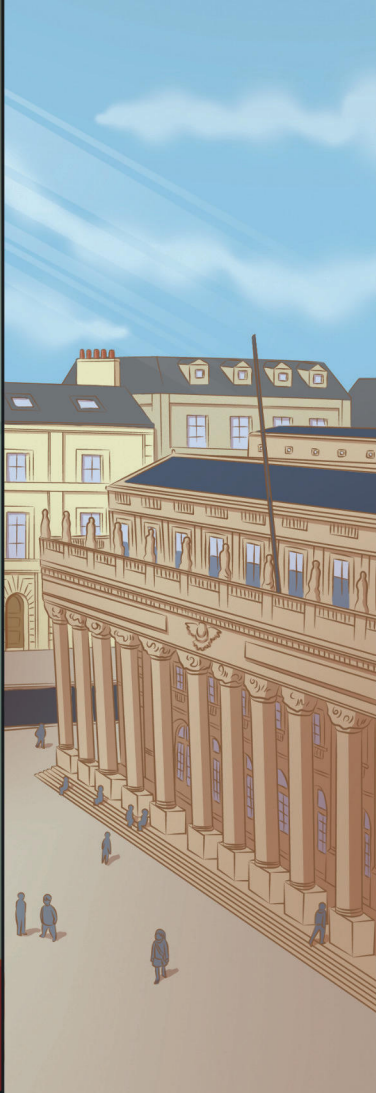


A PROMISE IS A PROMISE.









## SLEEPING BEAUTY

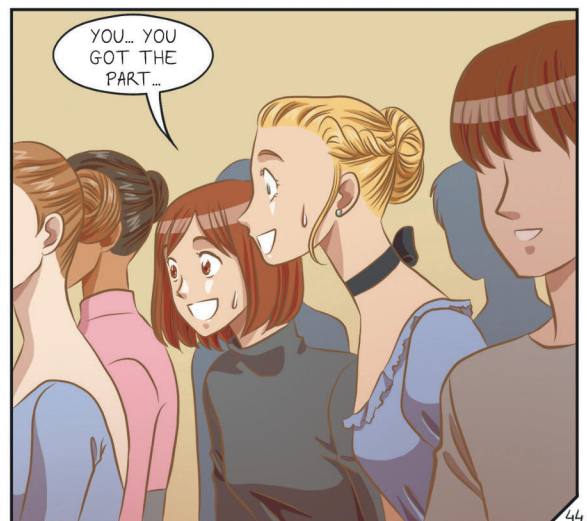
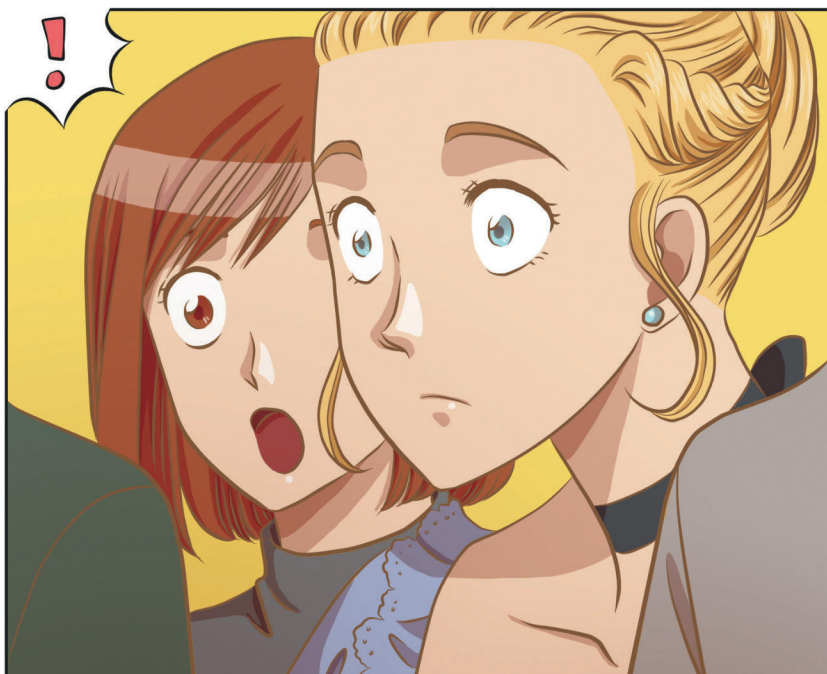
### Opening Night Cast

**The Princess Aurora**  
Oxana Ravenel (understudy: Hanaé Keshi)

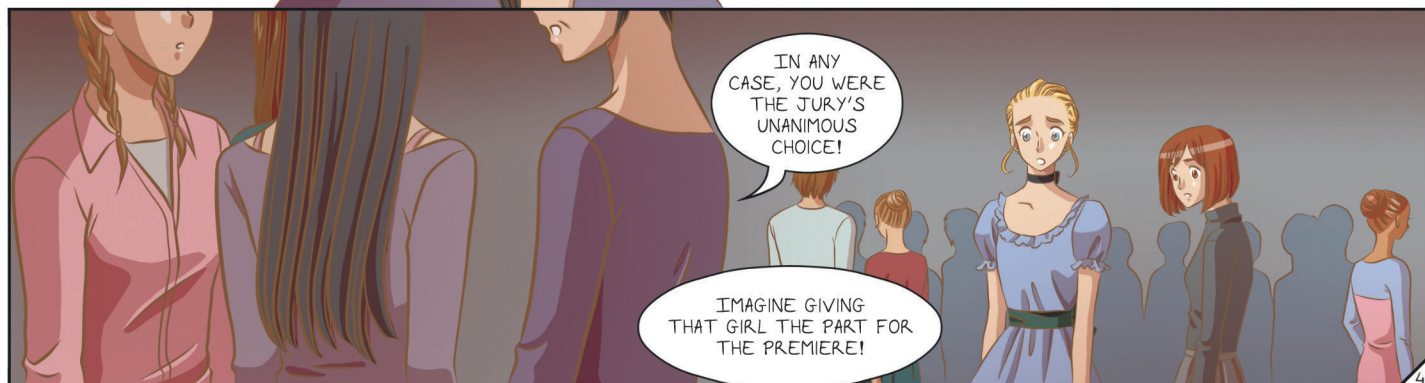
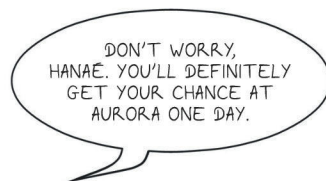
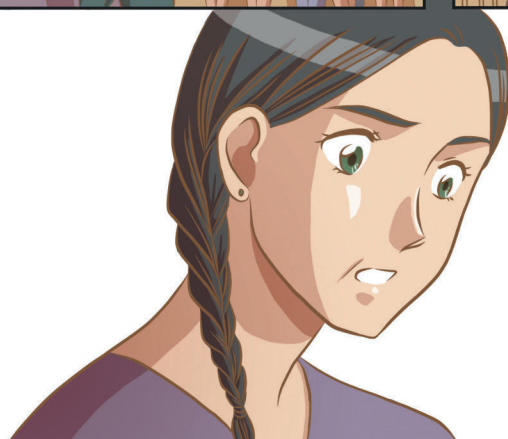
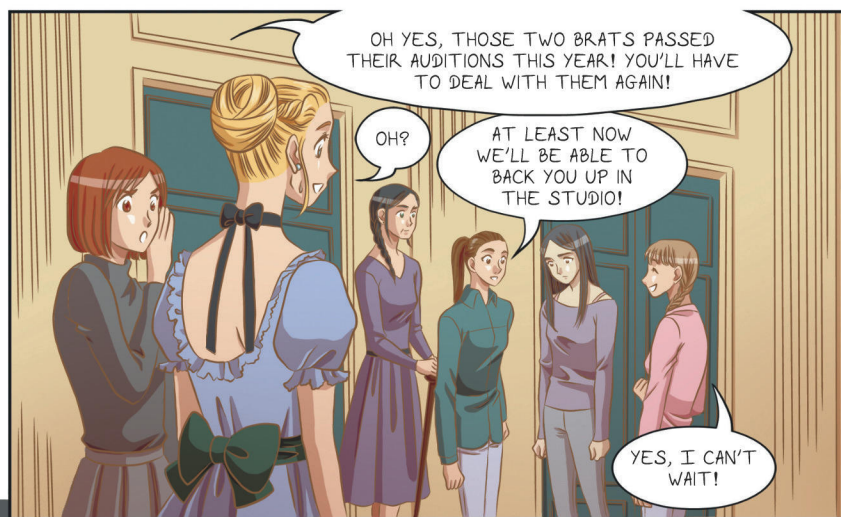
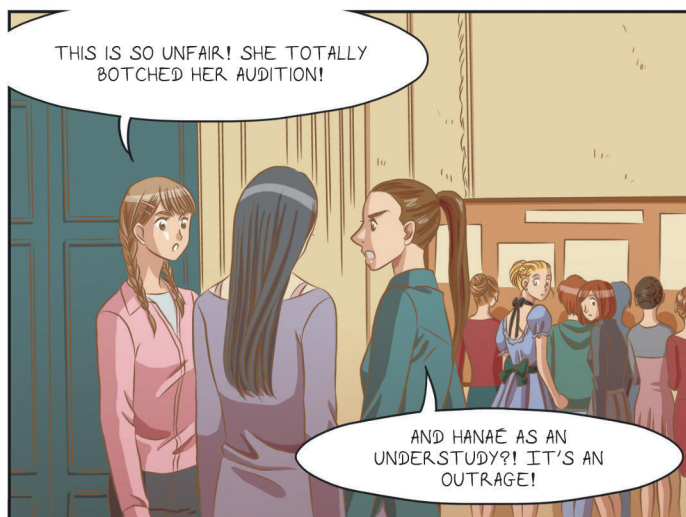
**The Prince Désiré**  
Léonide Aster (understudy: Luc Gérin)

**The Lilac Fairy**  
Stella Bron

**The Evil Fairy Carabosse**  
Boris Grand



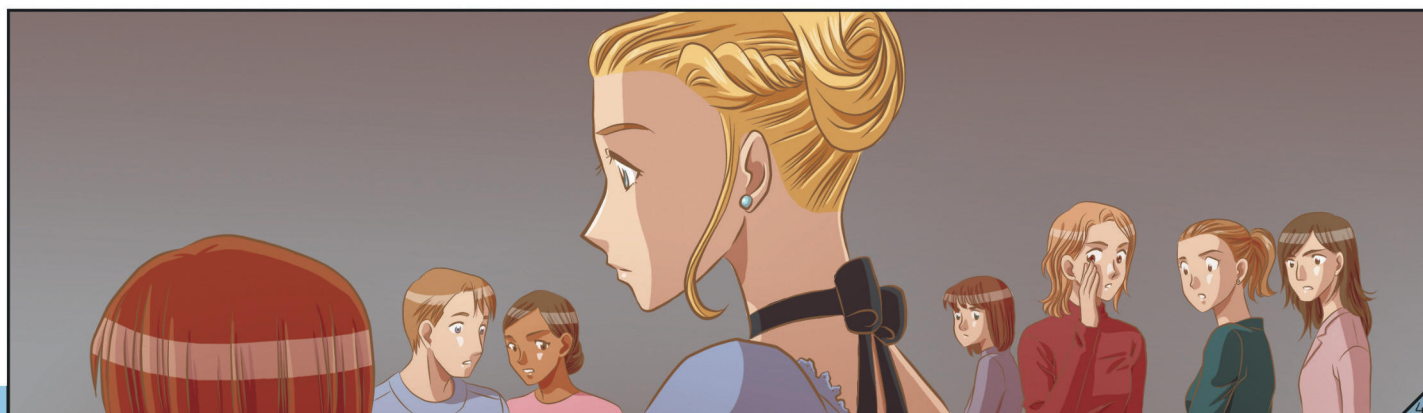
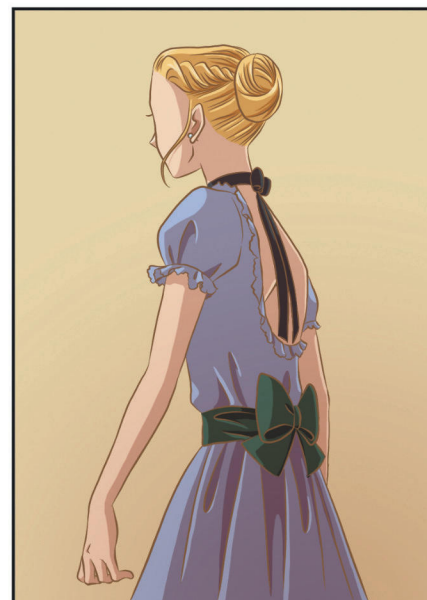
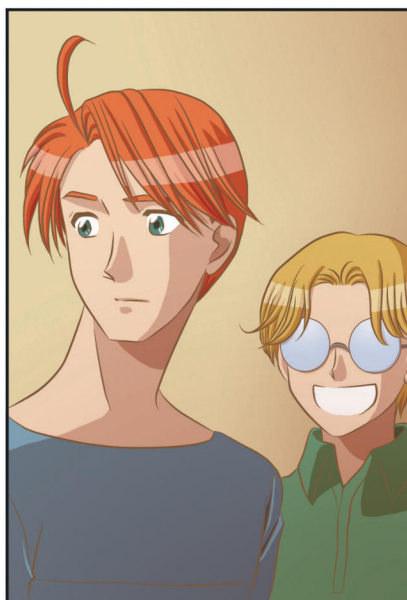




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TO BE  
CONTINUED...







For Aerinn, Lulu, and Vurore, in memory of our days of fanzines and conventions.  
For Sameh, Céline, and Élodie in memory of classes in the prefab buildings of a certain high school.  
For Lynda, Émilie, Solène, and Shujie, in memory of college days replete with  
grammar and lectures that enthralled to greater or lesser degrees.  
And for Linda, whose help was beyond measure!

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**DARGAUD**





*Oxana, a young dancer from the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century,  
is the victim of a terrible curse that plunges her into a deep slumber...*

*She awakens a hundred years later with no memory of the past  
in a time that is not her own. Why has she lost her memory?*

*What power does her strange necklace hold?*

*And what are the intentions of the mysterious man  
in white who comes to her aid?*

